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Issue No 69
Available from Wednesday
January 7, 2009

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DRIVER'S MBE JOY

Pictured beside a giant diesel locomotive is Robin Prince who has been awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year Honours List.

Mr Prince - known as Bob - was honoured for his services to the train industry. He began working on the railways as a porter in 1963 when he was 15 and began driving trains eight years later.

He is one of two people from Maidstone to receive an MBE this year. The other is Godfrey Featherstone, 65, the former director of Kenward Trust.

FULL HONOURS LIST ROUND-UP, SEE PAGE 4

BY ANNA WHITE

WE could be the first town in Kent to become plastic bag free thanks to the launch of a new environmental campaign.

Maidstone Town Management Team is fronting the ambitious Bin the Bag scheme in an attempt to make the county town greener. Within three months they want a complete end to shops handing out plastic bags with goods purchased.

Figures show that if each shop in Maidstone gave out 20 plastic bags a day that would equal to more than four million bags handed out every year.

Manager Bill Moss said: "Most people will agree we need to do something to reduce the use of plastic bags, so town centre management has taken the lead with an ambitious plan to Bin the (plastic) Bag."

"We are asking all town centre retailers to find an alternative to plastic bags and we will be giving away 10,000 bags to independent shops to kick-start the campaign, but we can't hope to succeed without the cooperation of shoppers, who should begin to question why they are being offered a plastic bag in Maidstone after March 31."

"While the independent shops will make their own decision whether to continue with plastic bags after March 31, the nationals will be guided by their head offices and I'm confident people-power will eventually win through."

"With the support of shoppers we will succeed in our campaign to Bin the Bag in Maidstone."

The three-month campaign will inform the public about how damaging plastic bags are to our environment and will hold petitions,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

THE MINCE PIE WHO LOVED ME

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SEE OUR SISTER PAPERS KENT ON SUNDAY AND THE SATURDAY EDITION FOR ALL THE WEEKEND'S COUNTY NEWS AND SPORT

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Printed by Newsfax
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Sir Richard 'misinformed'

SIR Richard Branson's calls for all hospital staff to be screened for the superbug MRSA are misinformed, according to a Kent infection control expert.

The billionaire Virgin Group chairman made the comments after he was appointed vice-president of the Patients' Association.

Dr Sara Mumford, director of infection prevention and control at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, said: "It would take a huge amount of time and effort, not to mention money, for something that would not have very much benefit to the patients."

"I think his comment is more of a lack of information, or misinformation."

Dr Mumford was headhunted by the trust after the damning Healthcare Commission report into two outbreaks of Clostridium difficile at Maidstone, Kent and Sussex and Pembury hospitals was published last year.

At least 90 patients died from the superbug between 2004-06.



MRSA CALL: Sir Richard Branson

Lifetime ban for canon who ran off with curate

A LONG-serving married rector has been banned from the clergy for life after running away with his female deputy.

The Rev Canon James Tipp, 63, received the ban after abandoning his wife and his Snodland parish in February 2008 to set up home with Elaine Northern, 54.

Mrs Northern was given a 12-year ban for her part in the scandal, which left the congregation at Christ Church stunned.

At a disciplinary hearing, Mr Tipp, who was also Rural Dean of Cobham, received a life ban because of his higher level of responsibility.

The father-of-two has attacked the ban, citing the case of the Rev Teresa Davies who was barred for 12 years after holding services while drunk and having sex with strangers.

In a statement to a national newspaper, Mr Tipp and Mrs Northern wrote: "We should have fared much better had we been promiscuous."

"We have had a number of comments from those outside the church asking the question, 'I thought

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

Christianity was about forgiveness?"

"Although Judge Wiggs [who chaired the tribunal] states 'the Church must exercise forgiveness', forgiveness does not seem to be on the agenda and in a lifetime sentence can never be on the agenda."

The couple, who were both married when they began their relationship, disappeared last year.

Mr Tipp had been parish priest at the Snodland church for more than 25 years, while Mrs Northern, a mother-of-four, joined in 2003.

One parishioner, who did not want to be named, said: "John was always preaching about the sanctity of marriage and resisting temptation - then he runs away with the curate."

Mr Tipp had been rector of the church since 1982 and married wife Veronica in Hackney in 1967.

The couple have two daughters, Michelle, 36, and Elizabeth, 34.

Mrs Northern joined the parish in 2003. She and her husband married in 1977. They have two daughters and two sons, ranging in age from 18 to 26.

yourmaidstone
NEWS IN BRIEFEllie's screen debut
in Anne Frank series

A TEENAGER from Kent made her television debut as Anne Frank on BBC1 this week.

Ellie Kendrick, a former pupil at Benenden School, plays the Dutch girl in the drama series The Diary of Anne Frank.

Anne Frank kept a diary as she and her family hid from the Nazis during the Second World War.

The third instalment of the five-episode series will be shown at 7pm tonight (Wednesday).

The remaining episodes will be aired at the same time on Thursday and Friday.

Join pastors on patrol

STREET Pastors in Maidstone are hoping to double the number of volunteers.

The group, which was formed last year, is made up of 12 Christians who patrol the streets of the county town on Saturday nights.

They talk to and help people who are alone, vulnerable or in trouble. The patrols also help police defuse potentially violent situations.

The Street Pastors are holding a recruitment evening on January 14, at the Salvation Army headquarters in Maidstone.

Those wanting to attend must be Christian and aged 18 and above.

School's invitation

KINGSWOOD Primary School has an open day on Friday.

Prospective parents can view the school, talk to the teachers, other parents and the children.

And the community can also take the opportunity to see for themselves the important resource on their doorstep.

The day starts at the school in Cayser Drive, Kingswood, at 9am with an open assembly followed by refreshments, and ends at about noon.

Pet tortoise taken

A PET tortoise has been stolen from a home in Yalding.

Thieves broke into a shed at the side of a home in Medway Drive on December 2, at about 10.45pm, and took the creature and the glass tank in which it was kept.

Police would like information about a silver Ford Focus which was seen in the area at the time. Contact Maidstone police on 01622 690055 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

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Class War anarchist still bad to the Bone

BY STEVE KNIGHT

A NOTORIOUS anarchist is returning to his Kentish roots to help produce a film based on his autobiography.

Class War founder Ian Bone, who became a tabloid hate figure after the Trafalgar Square poll tax riot in 1990, grew up as the son of a butler in Goudhurst, near Maidstone.

Early sections of his book, *Bash the Rich*, are set in the village, which Mr Bone says was where "a lifetime of shit-stirring" began. He told Kent on Sunday: "I'd have to put the way I turned out down to how I spent my early years."

"I lived in the servants' quarters at Latham House because my mum was a housemaid and my dad a butler."

"They had to be deferential at all times, so it wasn't as if they could swear at their employers if they saw them outside of working hours. My dad was always called 'Bone', even by the children, and I always found that gravely insulting."

Part of the Goudhurst filming for *Bash the Rich* will be set in the 1950s, when visiting fruit-pickers were given a less than warm welcome.

Mr Bone said: "The village was a genteel place most of the time, but when the fruit-pickers came down they didn't care about that and were boisterous and rowdy."

"The locals thought they were thieving scum and shopkeepers refused to serve them. Some people even put barbed wire up to keep them away. It was a great time and I found it really exciting, but obviously not everybody felt that way."

Also featured in the film is a recreation of the Battle of Goudhurst in 1747, which saw the local militia put an end to the infamous Hawkhurst Gang of smugglers.



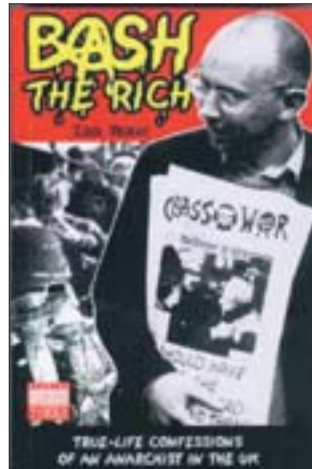
RETURN: Ian Bone grew up in Goudhurst and (right) his autobiography charts years spent growing up in Kent

The brother of the man who led the attack on the village – Thomas Kingsmill – is buried beneath a skull-and-crossbones tombstone in Goudhurst churchyard.

Mr Bone said: "Goudhurst is just as cosy as it always was, which makes it perfect to film scenes because it has hardly changed."

"Although the film is about radicalism, it is also a comedy too, and I hope it will be a success. Hopefully, it will also encourage more people to visit the village."

The Class War anarchist group advocated violent revolution through its newspaper of the same name. It was active through most of the 1980s and '90s and organised a number of 'Bash the Rich' events.



Its paper regularly featured photographs of injured policemen and a early cover ran the headline: 'We have found new homes for the rich' above a picture of a cemetery.

Despite no longer being heavily involved with Class War, Mr Bone still finds time to ruffle some feathers.

Last month he joined anarchists outside the Greek embassy in London protesting about the growing unrest back home, while he is also planning his own special greeting for new US President Barack Obama when he visits the UK for the first time in April.

Mr Bone said: "I've not mellowed and I haven't grown old gracefully. I'm still stuck in a 1960s time warp."

Asbo for man who scawled offensive messages in toilets

A 49-YEAR-OLD man has been banned from carrying felt tip pens after writing hundreds of rude and offensive graffiti about women in public toilets and buses, writes *Stian Alexander*.

David Jell, from Hawkhurst, was slapped with an Asbo after being collared "time and time again" scrawling rude words about women he knew in loos and on public transport.

He was given a three-year Asbo banning him from "writing or displaying abusive comments or to write names or nicknames of any person/or the contact details of any person in a public place".

He was also told last week that he could face jail if he is caught carrying "spray paint or felt-tip marker pens in a public place".

Police said Jell wrote the disturbing comments, including women's names and phone numbers, on various public places between January and September 2007.

DCI Russell Nyman, of Kent Police, said: "The Asbo should ensure we do not see a repeat of this type of behaviour."

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How independent stores are beating the recession. Search 'Clarks'

'No excuse for current volume of plastic bags'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

exhibitions, and be backed by ambassadors who will promote the ban.

Law firm Brachers has sponsored an information pack which will be sent out to all retail outlets in the town, offering them a sample paper bag and details of why they should stop using plastic bags.

One of the most interesting parts of the campaign will be the Plastic Bag Dress, which has been commissioned by the Town Centre Management from artist Clare Southern.

Mr Moss added: "We are also looking for key figures of the county town and beyond to back the campaign as an ambassador and show their support to a change that will have a great effect worldwide."

"There really is no excuse to use the current volume of plastic bags and we will also be offering our visitors alternatives, from paper bags and our own jute eco-bags to charity bags and 'mores' bags, which can be sewn together from recycled materials from a downloadable pattern that is available on our website."

• See <http://maidstonetowncentre.com> for further details.

Gas may have killed couple at home on Christmas Day

THE death of a former school teacher and her partner who died on Christmas Day has sparked suspicion of accidental carbon monoxide poisoning.

Officers were called to a house in Belgrave Street, Eccles, near Maidstone, at about 4pm, after relatives called cops.

Police discovered the bodies of former PE teacher at St Simon's Stock Catholic School, Zoe O'Kelly, 54, and her partner known as Dave, 49.

Officials have said they are not treating the deaths as suspicious but have not confirmed reports the couple may have died from accidental carbon monoxide poisoning.

Neighbours Paul and Marilyn Reckless, of Maidstone, Kent, had been expecting Ms O'Kelly round for Christmas dinner.

Mr Reckless, 55, said: "While we were at church in the morning, our son Stephan went to see if Zoe was still coming over. He couldn't get an answer so let himself in, as we look after their spare key, to make sure everything was okay."

"He noticed them lying in bed together, but just assumed they'd had a drink the night before and were sleeping in, so decided not to disturb them and left."

"Then, at about 4pm, the police came over, asked us for our key, and discovered they were both dead. It

was such a shock."

Neighbours said Ms O'Kelly was highly respected and well-liked among students, parents and other staff at the mixed comprehensive.

Mrs Reckless added: "She had a natural talent in dealing with young people, and was a dedicated teacher."

"A couple of pupils live in the street and they would always say hello miss when they saw her. They thought the world of her. We all did."

"It would have been sad any time, but on Christmas Day it's nothing short of a tragedy. I've still got her present under the tree – every time I look at it, I well up. I will miss her. She always came over here and I'd go over to her's for a cup of tea and a natter."

"She was outgoing, had a great sense of humour and was so generous. She was our son's godmother and helped him with his university fees."

Ms O'Kelly, who was divorced, had been with her partner Dave, a street-light repair man, for five years. He had recently moved in with her and had been due to spend Christmas Day with his ex-wife and two teenage daughters.

Mr Reckless added: "His daughters came over on the evening of Christmas Day and were screaming and crying outside. They were absolutely beside themselves."

An inquest has been opened and adjourned.

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NEWS IN BRIEFMini Alan Sugars need
to hop to it to win comp

IF your child has what it takes to give Sir Alan Sugar a run for his money then he or she could make it onto the Mini Board of Directors 2009.

The Hop Farm, which closed for the Christmas period, is set to come back in the New Year with a bang and is looking for six children under the age of ten to join it.

The Paddock Wood visitor centre is looking for entrants who can handle rubbing shoulders with celebrities, appear in press calls and meet journalists at exclusive previews of brand new attractions.

If your child can handle the job then make sure to get the application in by January 23.

To apply send your child's name, age and a few lines from them on why they would like to become a board member to Angela Cooper, The Hop Farm, Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 6PY or email angela@cooperpr.co.uk.

Winners will be announced when the Hop Farm re-opens on February 7.

More details visit www.thehopfarm.co.uk.

Green Party appeals to
stop bloodshed in Gaza

THE Green party in Maidstone has called on the Prime Minister to put an immediate stop to Israel's attacks on Gaza.

Stuart Jeffery will stand for the Green party in the next general election for Maidstone and the Weald.

In his blog, Stuart's Big Green Spot, on December 30, Mr Jeffery said: "Israel is committing appalling atrocities in Gaza and has been roundly condemned by most of the world (except the US)."

"Please can you call on Gordon Brown to do more to stop the bloodshed."

"There needs to be an immediate end to Israel's military assault on Gaza, an immediate end to the blockade and siege on Gaza, an end to Israel's violations of international law and an end to Israeli occupation."

People can join the protest by writing to their MP at www.writetothem.com.

Over 50s get in line for
dancing in the New Year

LINE dancers from the age of 50 can head back to class when the Kent Active Retirement Association re-opens after the Christmas break.

On January 12, the first easy and beginners line dancing class of the New Year starts at 12.45pm, and the more advance class begins at 2pm.

Join in at Larkfield Village Hall, New Hythe Lane. For details call 01732 870715.

County's finest are rewarded in Queen's New Year's honours list
**Olympic cyclist
gets royal gong**

BY JENNA PUDELEK

AN OLYMPIC cyclist and the county's fire chief are among the 31 winners from Kent in the Queen's New Year's honours list.

Jamie Staff, from Ashford, won gold in the men's team sprint at this summer's Beijing Games and was awarded an MBE for services to sports.

He joins a host of other sports stars to pick up gongs at Buckingham Palace including Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton, who had his big break karting at Buckmore Park near Rochester, and said he was "humbled" to receive an MBE.

Chief Fire Officer Charlie Hendry, who lives in Doddington near Sittingbourne, was recognised for his services to local government and awarded a CBE.

Fundraiser Derek McCarrick won an MBE

for charitable services after spending the past 20 years running marathons dressed as the cartoon character Roger Rabbit and raising £200,000 for Leukaemia Research.

The 73-year-old, who lives on the Isle of Sheppey, told reporters he was absolutely thrilled to receive the award.

Other winners included Bridget Jones, from Canterbury, who was awarded an MBE for services to the Canterbury Gypsy and Traveller Support Group and the Kent author Jane Gardam, who picked up an OBE for services to literature.

Boxing historian Harold Alderman, who lives in Aylesham near Canterbury, was made an MBE for his services to sporting heritage.



DOUBLE WINNER: Beijing Olympic gold medallist, Jamie Staff, received an MBE for services to sport at the Palace

Godfrey and Bob are pride of county town

BOB PRINCE MBE: For services to the rail industry

Chief's CBE

THE county's Chief Fire Officer Charlie Hendry received the CBE for services to local Government.

Mr Hendry, 48, said: "It's a tremendous honour to be recognised in this way and I'm obviously delighted."

"I believe that this recognition is a reflection of the hard work and commitment of everyone who works for KFRS. For me, it's a privilege to lead the best service in the UK."



CBE: Kent's Chief Fire Officer, Charlie Hendry

TWO people from Maidstone have been named in the Queen's New Year's Honours list for their services.

Godfrey Featherstone, 65, the former director of Kenward Trust, was made an MBE for his services to disadvantaged people.

The Kenward Trust is a Maidstone based charity which offers recovery programmes for people suffering from drug and alcohol abuse, and homelessness problems.

Mr Featherstone, originally from Bromley lives in the grounds of Kenward House, Yalding.

He said: "I am absolutely delighted to receive the MBE, not just for me but for the Kenward Trust and the Tower Hamlets Mission, another charity I'm involved with."

"The people at the charities are also delighted and I'm really pleased that they are, because this is a credit to them as well, I want them to say we've got an MBE not just Godfrey has one."

Mr Featherstone first became involved with Kenward Trust in 1969 when he was 26, as a volunteer before working his way up to director.

He added: "I was studying Architecture and Engineering in London when I started to talking to homeless people who had drug and alcohol problems. I used to spend my lunch hours talking to them."

"It wasn't until one homeless man I spoke to told me about Kenward Trust that my wife and I went down there, knocked on the door and asked if they needed any help."

He retired from the role after 40 years in April 2008, but still remains a regular face within the charity.

Robin Prince, 60, known to friends as Bob, who has been the operations manager at Vicia Railfreight Ltd since 1999, was made an MBE for his services to the rail industry.

Mr Prince joined the British Railways when he was 15 in 1963 as a junior porter, before becoming a driver 1971 and making his way up the management ladder.

During his role as operations manager, he has taken on staff training and development, as well train driving and assessment duties.

Mr Prince and his team also had the task of training more than 100 recruits varying from drivers, shunters and other jobs, when the company took on the contract to build the Channel Tunnel.

Due to ill health he has cut back on his driving and taken more of an office role, offering what the company describes as his "experience and humour."

On hearing of the award Mr Prince said: "I am delighted and privileged and would like to accept the award on behalf of all railway people for their continuing efforts to keep Britain's railways moving, especially given the unsocial hours involved and the little recognition most railway people receive these days."

Mr Featherstone and Mr Prince are two of the 31 people from Kent who were named in honours list

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Protestors' fury over delay on Gurkha immigration decision

■ BY NICK AMES

A DELAY in changes to the Government's immigration policy regarding retired Gurkhas has been labelled "unacceptable" by campaigners.

In September, High Court judges ruled that the current system of allowing only those soldiers who retired after 1997 to remain in the UK was unlawful, and gave the Home Office three months to come up with new rules.

However, the Gurkha Justice Campaign – supported by actress Joanna Lumley – believes the Government plans to apply for a further three months to consider individual cases.

Kent is home to the 2nd Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles, based at Shorncliffe, Folkestone, who are currently serving in Afghanistan.

And nearly half of the soldiers from the

Maidstone-based 36 Engineers Regiment are Queen's Gurkha Engineers.

Gurkha Justice Campaign organiser Peter Carroll, who is also a Shepway councillor and the Lib Dem's Parliamentary candidate for Maidstone and the Weald, said: "This delay is totally unacceptable.

"As recently as November 20 we handed in to Downing Street the largest-ever petition on this issue, signed by 250,000 people calling on the Government to allow all British Army retired Gurkhas the right to settle in the UK.

"The people have spoken and the Government should listen.

"It seems unbelievable that we continue to treat former Gurkhas so badly at a time when their sons are laying down their lives on our behalf in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Mr Carroll added that he thought the delay was due to an internal dispute between the Home Office and the Ministry of Defence, who he believes are concerned more Gurkhas will want to enter Britain.

He said: "The Prime Minister himself paid

tribute to the Gurkhas on his recent visit to the war zone. We are calling on him to stand above petty arguments between Government departments and do what the people continue to ask – let all retired British Army Gurkhas have the right to settle here, if they so wish."

A Home Office spokeswoman said: "We have taken the [High Court] judgement on board and are determined to get the amended guidance right to ensure it is fair to all Gurkhas. This has involved consultation across Government.

"Once we have published the guidance we will review the cases as soon as possible."

Earlier this month the wife of a Gurkha soldier killed in Afghanistan was warned she and the couple's two daughters may be deported in 2012.

Colour Sergeant Krishna Dura, of the 2nd Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles, died last month in the Musa Qala district of Helmand Province when the vehicle in which he was travelling was struck by a roadside bomb.

The Gurkha Justice Campaign is also calling for his family to be allowed to remain in the UK.

Call for witnesses to bank robbery

DETECTIVES are appealing for witnesses of robbery at the Nat West Bank in Larkfield on Monday December 22 to come forward.

A man went into the bank at around 3pm and brandished a kitchen knife, threatening staff.

An amount of cash was passed to the offender and he ran from the building. It is believed he turned right as he left the bank, going into Larkfield Road.

No-one was hurt during the incident, however the member of staff who was threatened was very distressed.

Scarf

The robber is described as white, 5ft 8ins, stocky build. He was wearing a long sleeved dark blue sports top, blue jeans and black shoes as well as a peaked sandy-green woolly hat and he had a scarf covering his face.

Officers carried out an immediate search of the area and a forensic examination was completed to gather evidence.

Det Con Kris Eberlein said: "If you were in the area and saw anything you think may have been suspicious please contact us. In particular, if you saw the man as he headed off along Larkfield Road."

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call police on 01732 379217 or Kent Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



HELP FRIENDS AT MOTE

The Friends of Mote Park are looking for volunteers to help them keep the historic park in top condition. The volunteer group has been working with the park's owner Maidstone council, since 2004, and needs help to carry out a number of practical tasks in the 450-acre park. The next working sessions are on Wednesday, January 21 and Saturday, February 21, when glade creation and path clearance tasks are on the agenda. All necessary tools and equipment will be provided, and the project will be supervised by members of Kent BTCV (The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers). Tasks run from 10am to 1pm. Refreshments will be provided. Anyone who would like to lend a hand should contact Mike Phillips on 01233 666519 or email m.phillips@btcv.org.uk. Alternatively people can just turn up at the cafe located in Mote Park at 10am wearing suitable clothing for outdoor work.

Tories unite in bid to fight recession

A PANEL of influential Tory members came to Maidstone to address local businesses and people in a bid to save Kent from the country's deepening recession.

The Tory parliamentary candidate for Maidstone and Weald, Helen Grant, organised the Get Britain Working Again forum yesterday at the Russell Hotel, in Maidstone.

She was joined on the panel by Shadow Commons Leader Theresa May, Maidstone council's leader Chris Garland, cabinet member for leisure and culture Broian Moss and Kent County Council cabinet member for resources, Kevin Lynes.

Ms May began the session by laying out the Conservative Party plan to help people and businesses during the economic downturn and help them recover quickly.

The proposals included abolishing income tax on savings for basic rate taxpayers, raise pensioners' personal allowance by £2,000 to £11,490, and reduce employment costs for small businesses by cutting National Insurance.

The audience was made up of representatives from local businesses, organisations, and people affected by the credit crunch.



PLANS: Theresa May and Helen Grant at the meeting

Grace Hall, an unemployed Maidstone resident, said: "I volunteer because I want to develop and enhance my skills, but every training centre in Kent can't provide me with any training that I can use, and it causes low morale."

Mr Lynes responded by saying: "We need to ask employers what trainees they need, and that is what we should be training people in."

Speaking after the forum she added: "Kent and Maidstone has a tremendous feeling among the business community. They want to work and are coming together."

Mrs Grant said: "We recognise how difficult it is for people and we are doing our best to give them support at this time."

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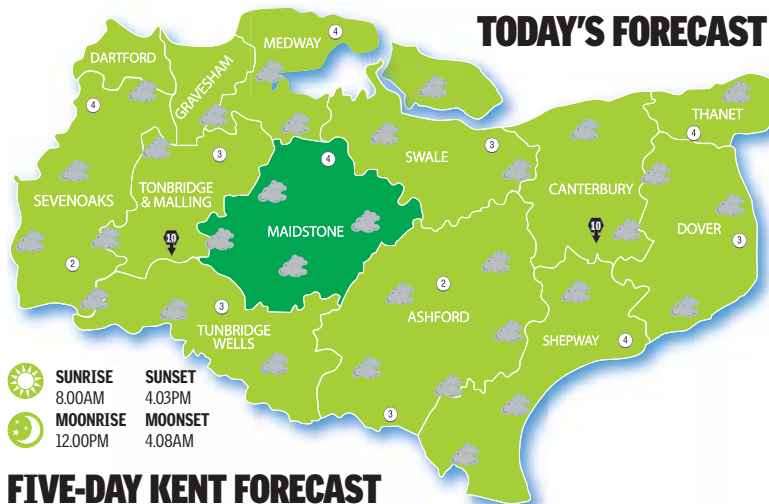


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WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	11.34am	5.8m
	Sunday	12.30am	6.1m
Dover	Saturday	10.04am	6.4m
	Sunday	10.58am	6.6m
Dungeness	Saturday	9.52am	7.3m
	Sunday	10.47am	7.6m
Ramsgate	Saturday	10.31am	4.8m
	Sunday	11.26am	5.0m
Sheerness	Saturday	11.31am	5.6m
	Sunday	12.27am	5.8m
Whitstable	Saturday	11.37am	5.2m
	Sunday	12.38am	5.4m

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	2°C	4°C	4°C	3°C	4°C	Gravesend	2°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	4°C
Canterbury	1°C	4°C	3°C	3°C	2°C	Maidstone	2°C	3°C	4°C	4°C	4°C
Chatham	2°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	Ramsgate	1°C	4°C	3°C	3°C	2°C
Dartford	2°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	Rochester	2°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	4°C
Dover	2°C	3°C	3°C	3°C	3°C	Sevenoaks	1°C	2°C	3°C	2°C	3°C
Faversham	2°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	Sittingbourne	2°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	4°C
Folkestone	2°C	3°C	3°C	3°C	3°C	Tonbridge	2°C	3°C	5°C	3°C	4°C
Gillingham	2°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	Tun Wells	2°C	3°C	5°C	3°C	4°C

AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	-1°C	Madrid	3°C
Athens	13°C	New York	2°C
Barcelona	9°C	Paris	-1°C
Beijing	-1°C	Rome	8°C
Bombay	29°C	Sydney	30°C
Cape Town	27°C	Tenerife	20°C
Cardiff	3°C	Tokyo	10°C
Gibraltar	14°C	Vancouver	3°C
Hong Kong	21°C	Warsaw	-11°C
Las Palmas	18°C	Wellington	19°C



WHAT A GOOD SPORT: Whitehouse Chrysler Jeep has sponsored Woodstock Girls FC U13s team's new kit

Jeep dealer drives in to team's rescue

WOODSTOCK Girls FC U13s football team has scored a winning goal... by netting a new kit sponsor.

Whitehouse Chrysler Jeep has come to the girls' rescue by buying their new strip after their previous sponsor called time on their arrangement.

The Maidstone dealership's generous offer is the second time lady-luck has smiled on the team in as many years.

Back in 2006, the girls were floundering without a manager. Today, after parent John Ruskin took over the 'gaffer's' role, they are one of the best teams in the region and are currently playing to go one better than last season's runners up in the Kent Girls and Ladies Football League.

Mark Wood, Dealer Principal at Whitehouse, said: "We are only too pleased to be able to help the girls, fingers crossed they go all the way this season and bring home some silverware!"

Parent Michelle McKenna, a customer of Whitehouse who helped arrange the sponsorship, said: "We're extremely grateful Mark stepped in. With the climate the way it is, it's really pleasing. I've bought my last two cars from Whitehouse and the guys there always go that extra mile to ensure everything is perfect."

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QUESTION & ANSWER

LISA WELLS



Q Can you tell us about your role as fund-raising support assistant?

A My main duties as FSA are to provide support to two fund-raising managers and ensure the office runs smoothly.

Often I am the first point of contact, so I meet a diverse range of people. On a typical day I'll speak to volunteers such as committee members or our schools speaker, Macmillan staff and other supporters who may be doing anything from sponsored slims to running marathons to raise money.

I am also responsible for thanking donors and banking donations, writing press releases for our website, providing admin support during local and national events and solving practical problems in our office.

Every year, Macmillan holds collections at Tesco and Morrisons stores across Kent. I helped co-ordinate the Tesco collections in October which raised more than £16,000. Recently I have been working to deliver the same success at our Morrisons collections.

It is a varied role with lots of opportunities to meet supporters and attend events. It is challenging and demanding – no two days are the same – but also very rewarding.

Q Is working for a charity something you planned to do?

A After university, I found it extremely difficult to find a job without having real business experience.

It wasn't until a friend offered me some work experience at a charity called the Riverwood

Project that I decided I'd really like to pursue a career within the charity sector.

I approached Macmillan as a volunteer but was lucky enough to be offered a full-time position at the Kent office.

Q Tell us about Macmillan Cancer Support

A Macmillan provides practical, medical, emotional and financial support to people affected by cancer. We have set ourselves the ambition of reaching and improving the lives of everyone living with cancer by 2010.

At a local level we have more than 100 Kent-based Macmillan nurses, doctors and other health professionals such as our dietician and speech and language therapist, who have the expert knowledge to help make living with cancer easier.

In 2007, Macmillan gave more than £210,000 in small grants to about 600 Kent cancer patients. These grants can help cover the cost of transport to hospital, a warm duvet, or even a much-needed family holiday.

Q What is it like to work for such a worthwhile cause?

A It's a charity that is close to my heart and I'm sure this is the case for many people. I am always greeted very positively because people are so interested in the charity and want to support such a good cause.

Q Can you give us some examples of fund-raising events or activities that you have helped to organise?

A When I started with Macmillan in May 2008, I was involved with a sponsored walk at Penshurst Place, just four days prior to starting.

I helped as much as possible, putting together packs for the Army cadets and helping with admin for the day. It was great to see the team in action and to introduce myself to our supporters and volunteers.

I am very involved with our Medway group, which raises funds solely for the Macmillan Cancer Care Unit at Medway Maritime Hospital in Gillingham.

We organised a fund-raising day in October which made £500. I support the group by raising awareness of events, providing fund-raising materials and sourcing raffle prizes. Our Christmas fair included a perfume tombola from John Lewis. We raised more than £1,000, which was fantastic.

In September I hosted my own coffee morning as part of Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning. I organised games, raffles, food and drink. We raised £559.

Q What is the highest amount ever raised from an event?

A The highest amount I have received was £10,832 from the Rochester and Cobham Park Golf Club.

The captains at the club chose Macmillan as their charity of the year and worked tirelessly to produce this fantastic amount. The money was collected through fund-raising days, raffles, a hog roast and a silent auction.

Q & A

Fund-raising support assistant Lisa Wells speaks to **Nick Ames** about the amazing work done by Macmillan nurses and why they need our help in easing the burden of people living with cancer

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Hurting down the Cresta Run, Chatham, to the music of Queens Of The Stone Age. Search 'Cresta'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

You can view all these videos and others from around the county with the click of a mouse at...

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Water shortage fears for the Kent desert

BY NICK AMES

KENT falls into a part of the UK which has less water per head of population than that available to the inhabitants of largely desert countries Morocco and Egypt.

The county is one of the areas of "serious water stress" identified in an Environment Agency report on the state of the nation's supplies which states that in the event of a hot dry summer rationing and hosepipe bans would inevitably come into force.

The survey warns that many lakes, estuaries and rivers are drained so quickly to provide fresh water for Britain's growing population there is a danger to wildlife and public supplies during dry years.

The Environment Agency says people are still wasting too much water in their homes, while water companies are allowing supplies to escape from leaking pipes.

It calls for the speedier introduction of water meters such as those introduced in Folkestone and on Romney Marsh - and for more reservoirs and desalination plants to be considered only as a last resort.

Trevor Bishop, the head of water resources, said: "We are trying to change the way we manage water resources and put in place the right incentives for people to use less water."

"There are three main ways - metering of customers, tackling leakage and more water efficiency in the home."

According to the agency, homes with meters use 13 per cent less water than those paying fixed water rates.

Mr Bishop added: "We are calling for meters, but done in the right way."

The report says the pressure is greatest in the South East and warns that the risk of water shortages, hosepipe bans and other restrictions will increase in the next few decades.



LOW: Water levels have dropped at Bewl, meaning supplies have to be supplemented from other sources

"Over the next 30 years, there will be increasing pressures from the rising population and associated development," it states.

"Looking further ahead, the impact of climate change could have a major impact on the water available for all uses."

Computer forecasts of climate change suggest winters will be wetter on average in Britain but summers will be drier, particularly in the South East.

Compared to the rest of Europe, water resources are under greater stress only in drier countries such as Cyprus, Malta, Spain and Italy, the report added.

In recent years hosepipe bans have been introduced in the summer across much of the county and supplies - including those drawn from Bewl Water - have had to be supplemented by river water from the Medway.



MEATY: Chris Rook (centre) presents Florence Neves and her son Michael with their festive hamper.

A prize turkey

ONE lucky KOS Media reader had a tasty Christmas to remember after winning a food-lovers' competition in our newspapers.

Butcher JC Rook and Sons, which has shops across the county, offered a luxury hamper worth more than £1,000 to make sure the winner enjoyed the festive period in style.

More than 2,500 readers entered competition, but it was Florence Neves and her son Michael from Sittingbourne who took home the turkey.

Other tasty treats included Kent-reared beef, pork and lamb, a goose, smoked salmon, cheeses, cakes, biscuits and of course wines, whiskey, brandy and port.

Drop in stab deaths

FIVE people were stabbed to death on the streets of Kent and Medway last year, new figures have revealed.

The Conservatives found that the number of fatal stabbings in England and Wales during 2007-08 had reached a record high with five people a week nationally losing their lives to knife crime.

Figures for Kent Police showed five people had been killed due to knife violence in 2007-08, down from six in 2006-07.

James Brokenshire, the shadow home affairs minister, called for the offence of knife possession to carry an automatic jail sentence.

"The Government's only response is short term, ad-hoc police operations, the results of which they spin and manipulate anyway to try and get a good story, 2009 must herald a new approach."



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At risk, our hedgehogs, voles and dormice

■ BY NICK AMES

A THIRD of mammals in the UK – including many species regularly encountered in the Kent countryside – are in “serious decline”, a disturbing report has revealed.

Dormice, water voles and harvest mice are among the creatures under threat, the State of Britain's Mammals survey warns.

And even the hedgehog – once a common visitor to many gardens – is under threat because of fewer hibernation sites.

The industrialisation of the countryside, the rise of invasive predators and modern farming techniques are to blame for falls in the numbers of about 40 species.

The report reveals that the number of water voles – a species immortalised by Ratty in *The Wind in the Willows* – has fallen by 88 per cent in the last 25 years.

They have been devastated by American mink that have escaped from fur farms.

Vazel dormice populations have fallen by 23 per cent the report, written for the People's Trust for Endangered Species, found.

The list of animals most at risk now includes 18 species – or 30 per cent of all land mammals in the UK.

Chief executive Jill Nelson said although hedgehogs remain a relatively common sight in gardens across the UK, their numbers have



RESTLESS SLEEP: Dormice numbers have declined by almost a quarter in recent years, according to the survey

fallen by a fifth since the early 1970s.

The fashion for neat gardens has robbed them of hibernation hideaways, while they have also been hit by loss of habitat, disease and changing climate.

Mrs Nelson said: “With population numbers of between one and three million there are

plenty of hedgehogs around, but fewer than there once was. They seem to be more prevalent in urban areas now because of changes in agricultural practices.

“When we hear people saying they are not seeing them in their gardens as much as they used to, you start to worry.”

Free legal help for victims of violence in their home

KENT Police are working with the National Centre for Domestic Violence to provide victims with access to legal representation 24 hours a day, all year round.

The partnership was launched at Kent Police College with Chief Superintendent Lee Catling, centre chief executive officer Steve Connor and local solicitors present.

The National Centre for Domestic Violence gives free legal advice and representation to victims of domestic abuse and helps them obtain court non-molestation orders, also known as injunctions.

An injunction stops a violent or abusive partner or ex-partner from using or threatening violence.

Chief Supt Catling said: “This partnership will help police officers in protecting victims and their families from abusers.

“Police and public protection unit officers will be able to refer victims to the centre for advice, which will help them start to rebuild their lives free from violence and abuse. Officers will be able to help victims seek free legal advice quickly.

“It is a criminal offence to breach non-molestation orders and we will arrest anyone breaching court orders.”

Mr Connor said: “Domestic violence is a cowardly crime. Our partnership with Kent Police will give anyone needing legal advice or an injunction fast access to our service, which is free to all regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation or financial circumstances.

“By standing together, we will send out a message that this horrific crime will not be tolerated and that we will work to bring abusers to justice.”

The centre is able to offer assistance at court using a ‘MacKenzie friend’ – a person who can offer legal advice – to accompany victims throughout proceedings. Leaflets publicising the partnership and the new services available in Kent and Medway are on display around the county.

‘Missing’ registered sex offenders revealed by FOI request

THIRTEEN registered sex offenders have “gone missing” in Kent, according to figures obtained by the BBC.

The broadcaster requested information about offenders who are not now at their reg-

istered address under the Freedom of Information Act. Data supplied by 38 police forces across the UK showed 317 sex offenders were reported as missing or unaccounted for.

The largest number of missing offenders was

reported by the Met in London, where 112 have disappeared. Other forces with high numbers missing include the West Midlands with 34, Greater Manchester (18), Northumbria (12) and Sussex (10).

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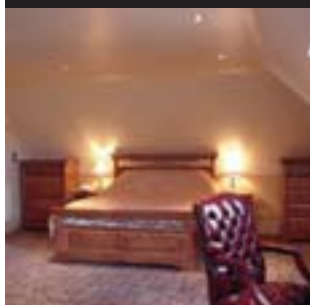
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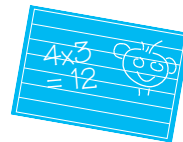
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**BREAK TIME****Disagreement over exclusion figures**

THE opinions of a senior Conservative politician from Kent have clashed with those of his counterpart in the shadow cabinet over expelling children from school.

More than 7,800 pupils were excluded from state schools in Kent and Medway last year for a variety of offences.

Kent suspended more children, 6,040, than anywhere else in the country apart from Hampshire. In Medway, there were 881 exclusions. This included 706 incidents of physical assault against a pupil and 157 against an adult, 137 of verbal abuse or threatening behaviour towards other pupils and 747 towards an adult and 32 cases of sexual misconduct.

Michael Gove, the shadow children's secretary, said: "Headteachers need discretion to choose the appropriate sanction... but these figures show teachers have to rely on suspensions because there are too many obstacles to permanent exclusion."

The Conservative Party, which released the figures on Monday, said children were being suspended for offences which should result in expulsion.

Cllr Leyland Ridings, Kent County Council's cabinet member for children, said schools had been working better together to help children with behavioural problems and that was why the number permanently excluded had dropped.

Primary caught alight

FIREFIGHTERS tackled a blaze at a primary school.

Two fire crews from Maidstone and one from Headcorn were called to Bell Wood Primary School, Brishing Lane, at 5.49pm on Saturday, December 27, where an outbuilding had caught alight.

Police were called to the scene after the fire fighters needed a key to enter the premises, which was said to be "well alight" by the time the crews arrived.

The fire had been put out by 6.12pm.

Designs pay off in university dream

■ BY ANNA WHITE

MAIDSTONE can now add university town to its title after the University for the Creative Arts was awarded full status.

UCA, which has campuses in Maidstone, Canterbury, Chatham, Rochester and Epsom, has received complete university status and is now the first specialist creative arts university in the country.

The former university college was originally the Kent Institute of Art and Design, before uniting with the Surrey Institute of Art and Design.

The news has been welcomed by councillors as this is the first time Maidstone has had a university within the borough.

To celebrate the achievement the Mayor of Maidstone, Cllr Denise Joy hosted a reception for UCA on December 15, at the Town Hall.

Representatives of Maidstone council, including leader Cllr Chris Garland, members of Kent County Council and industry specialists all attended the event.

The Oakwood Park, Maidstone, campus has worked closely alongside Maidstone council in the past on various projects in the town.

On December 1, a digital mural to mark the history of the Paddock Wood to Strood railway line, created by UCA final year multimedia students, who were commissioned by Medway Valley Community Rail Partnership, was unveiled at Maidstone West train station.



PROMOTION: Formally Kent Institute of Art and Design, UCA has now been awarded full university status

The county town is also supporting UCA students showcasing their work by offering free use of property in the High Street.

Cllr Garland said: "Maidstone is proud to become a university town and welcomes UCA's active role within the community making the town a distinctive and vibrant place to live and work."

"Projects such as a digital mural, AniMaidstone, and Media Tree, all illustrate UCA's significant role in the borough."

"I hope going forward there will be many more opportunities for the council, Maidstone

Studios, Media Tree and UCA to work together and I once again congratulate them on achieving university status."

UCA has announced its intention to close its Oakwood campus and to build a £75 million new campus somewhere in Kent and Medway for 3,000 students, and the mayor hopes Maidstone will be involved in the changes.

She said: "We believe Maidstone offers the university and its students an excellent location to live, work and study and we will be clearly doing all we can to ensure UCA decides to invest in the town."

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Resolution escalates into a cross training experience

I'VE never really been one for making New Year's resolutions.

I always felt there was nothing to be gained from choosing this particular month for making life-changing decisions. Surely it is best to make these kinds of promises to yourself when you really feel like it?

Having said that, I have succumbed to the common mantra of keeping fit this year; I have even bought an exercise machine. I got the Carl Lewis Cross Trainer second-hand; perhaps in the knowledge it was not worth forking out huge amounts of money on something that was likely to end up in the back of a cupboard or 'accidentally' left at a roadside lay-by.

I bought the instrument of torture from a nice man in Sittingbourne. Well, he was certainly smiling when he saw me coming. It was probably just a sense of relief that he did not have to look at the damn thing for another year, nagging away at his conscience. He proudly said he had only ever used it twice. At least now he has 50 quid in his pocket and

could get some exercise walking to the pub.

I have used the machine more than twice. Three times in fact – and that's three times more than I imagine Carl Lewis ever did. The first time, I stumbled off the pedals as it sent my arms and legs flailing in different directions, ripping my hamstring in the process. The second time I stopped after three minutes because my heart rate was going so fast the pulse detector couldn't keep up. It can deal with anything up to 160 beats per minute but once you go past 300 it just becomes a blur.

I am beginning to believe only three Carl Lewis Cross Trainers were ever made. One for the picture in the catalogues, one demonstrated on TV shopping channels and the third was actually bought by a man in Chelmsford back in 1996 and has since made its way, through numerous owners, to end up in my spare room getting in the way of the filing cabinet.

My other resolution is not to go to the video shop unless I know what I want to watch. On one recent trip I spent nearly an hour in the shop deliberating over some worthy art film,

only to discover it was being shown on BBC2 that night. And it was rubbish.

Talking of films, I must stop watching Star Wars. In the last 12 months my habit has reached junkie levels. I blame the invention of the DVD box set. Sunday afternoons are the worst. I get this terrible craving and I have to get my fix – even if just for five minutes. Then I watch it again when the films are shown on ITV because the picture is slightly bigger and my failing eyesight can see more of the feeble CGI of the dreadful prequels. Before Christmas I actually asked my partner to get me the Clone Wars cartoon; the one done in a drawing style which gives all the characters the physique of Masi Warriors – even Jabba the Hut.

So this year it's less couch surfing in a galaxy far far away and more working out on a do-it-yourself escalator that doesn't go anywhere.

• **EDITOR'S NOTE:** All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, **Jon Coates**, on 01303 817048 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Maidstone blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the news editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.

Write to The Editor, Yourmaidstone, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

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Sun 18	Holiday On Ice Brighton "Mystery"	£39
Sun 18	Bruges or Sluis	£30
Wed 21	Holiday On Ice Brighton "Mystery"	£39
Thu 22	The Musical Museum With Lunch New	£29
Sat 24	Holiday On Ice Brighton "Mystery"	£39
Sun 25	Holiday On Ice Brighton "Mystery"	£39
Sun 25	London Eye, Lunch & River Cruise	£59
Mon 26	Monday Special – Ypres & St Flora	£20
Tue 27	Pussycat Dolls At The O2 Arena	£59
Wed 28	Mystery Day With Lunch	£20
Sat 31	Holiday On Ice Brighton "Mystery"	£39

FEBRUARY

Date	Destination	Price (Adult pp)^
Sun 1	Holiday On Ice Brighton "Mystery"	£39
Thu 5	Greenwich Maritime Museum New	£15
Sat 7	London Showtime	fr £54
Mon 9	Monday Special – Ostend & St Flora	£20
Wed 11	Lunch At Moulin Snick, St Omer	£40
Thu 12	Raf Museum London New	£15
Sat 14	Valentines Love Is In The Air – London Eye & Chocolates	£39
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Thu 19	Boulogne & Hypermarket	£25
Sat 21	Disneyland® Resort Paris	£65
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Wed 25	Sound Of Music	£49
Thu 26	Mystery Day	£15
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Date	Destination	Price (Adult pp)^
Mon 2	Monday Special – Ghent	£20
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yourcompetition

Sail to the sales to snap up les bargains

The French government has announced today as the first day of the winter sales in the areas closest to the UK – le Nord, Pas de Calais and Aube.

French shopkeepers are strictly regulated when it comes to what they can call a sale. Just two are permitted a year, one winter and one summer, and reductions must be on normal stock. Buying stock in bulk and slapping a sale sign on it is a big non, non in France.

Discounts are generally between 50 and 70 per cent and 'Solde' is the key sign to look out for as it confirms items are in one of the formal sale periods. 'Degriffé' or 'Remise' followed by an amount shows the mark-down or discount.

Whilst 'Promo' or 'Promotion' signs are widespread they refer to just that: the sort of special offer promo a retailer can run at any time.

We've teamed up with P&O Ferries to give three lucky families a chance to bag some bargains by winning daytrip tickets for a car and passengers on the Dover-Calais route.

Taking your car to France couldn't be easier. Driving on board takes just minutes and the bargains begin right away as P&O Ferries offers savings across drinks, perfumes, cosmetics, jewellery, confectionery and gifts.

The crossing takes 90 minutes and on arrival, the 4 Boulevards shopping complex in the heart of Calais includes a hypermarket, large H&M and gallery of 50 shops. Nearby are the shopping malls and hypermarkets of Citie Europe and Marques Avenue.



P&O Ferries has up to 25 return sailings every day on its Dover-Calais service, so there's always a sailing to suit.

For further information or to book visit www.POferry.com or call 08716 646464.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your e-mail address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to P&O Ferries Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR.

The closing date is January 14, 2009.

Question: What do the French call the sales? A) Les Ferdinand B) Les Dennis C) Les Soldes

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Prizes cannot be extended and are only valid on the Dover-Calais route operated by P&O Ferries. Prizes cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Height/length/width/weight restrictions apply and prize crossings

are subject to space availability. Prize valid until December 31, 2009. No cash or other alternatives for any of the stated prizes will be offered. The judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Neither P&O Ferries' employees and their relatives nor employees/relatives of KOS Media are eligible to enter the competition.

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TALK TIME

TINA BEAN

The manager of a club which specialises in helping families with twins talks about double responsibilities



How was the club established?

The Twins Club was set up because some of the families said that although they appreciated the practical help a volunteer could provide, what they would really like and would be helpful would be to talk to other families in the same situation.

I took over the running of the two groups in February this year.

How does it operate in Swale?

In our area there seems to be a high number of multiple births and the parents feel the group gives them the time to relax while their children are able to play safely. They are also able to talk freely about any concerns they have and receive information from Home-Start, knowing we provide a confidential service.

Parents also find they make good friends within the group and often meet up at other times.

What are the particular issues?

Twins are hard work and apart from the extra feeding, changing, sleeping problems etc that are caused, there are many practical problems to overcome.

An example is going out: It can take longer to prepare to go anywhere, double buggies do not fit around some places and even baby changing facilities can cause a problem. Most of them are not designed to fit a double buggy in.

And what has been your most important finding?

Having twins can also be very costly. You have to buy double of everything.

YOUR LETTERS

We can be proud of our Olympic heroes

In many ways 2008 has been a year people will want to forget, with the continuing economic woes and the problems in the middle east and across the continent of Asia.

However there is one area which gave people in the UK at least a real boost – sport.

Not the overpaid prima donnas of the Premiership or the under achieving cricketers and rugby players but the members of the Olympic team who did so well in Beijing.

People such as Rebecca Adlington went out as virtual unknowns but by the end of the games were being acclaimed as heroes.

These performers showed what sport is all about and brought a great deal of pride to the UK.

Warren Bright
By email

Goodbye to a national institution

What a shame to see so all those branches of Woolworths now closed forever.

This national institution will not be the last to go when it comes to high street stores and I forecast things will be a lot worse before they get better in 2009.

Let's hope the Government adopts a few policies which tackle the long term implications of the credit crunch and doesn't just opt for a quick-fix approach which will see further problems pile up in the future.

Philipp Turner
By email



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In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yourmaidstone before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out. On www.yourmaidstone.co.uk you can access, for free, the full newspaper in our highly acclaimed e-editions.

Closure sale really emptied the store

I went to the final sale in my local Woolworths last week and was stunned to see the store

selling off its shelves.

What good could they possibly be to anyone unless they in turn were setting up a store?

I've heard of everything must go sales but that was totally ridiculous.

Brian Hills
By email

Journeys will end up taking longer

I will be interested to see what impact, if any, the new high speed trains have when they come into service across Kent later this year.

It seems to me that only a few stations will benefit.

Ashford will by far get the greatest reduction in travel time and I can see that trains running from the coast will improve travel times, even though they will not run at full throttle for the entire journey.

But what about the smaller stations and villages?

I am sure there will be fewer services stopping at such places as Marden, Pluckley, Lenham and Charing on the London bound lines. So will villagers have to take a train to a major station and then board a fast one? This will add to journey times, not make them shorter.

Terence Roberts
By email



Lovely robin was a sight to behold

You recently carried an article about the RSPB and its call to put out winter nesting boxes.

I did in my garden and was delighted that a large variety of birds took advantage of the box.

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At the end of the cruise we disembark after breakfast in Marseilles and take the TGV to Lille or Paris where we join the Eurostar to St Pancras, London, arriving early-to-mid evening.

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The sight of a robin at Christmas time was a particular delight.

Diane McIntyre
By email

We need a Dr Who has some charisma

I must say how much I enjoyed the recent Christmas Dr Who show – but it certainly showed David Morrissey should not be considered for the title role.

In the part he played – a sort of Dr Who wannabee – he was very good. But when he was on screen next to David Tennant it was clear who the star was.

He did not have a fraction of the true Doctor's charisma and even though I'm sure the script was written that way, he did not show nearly enough to warrant the permanent role.

Whoever is chosen as the next Timelord will have a great deal of work to do to even come close to Tennant's fine portrayal.

Tony Simpkins
By email

On the road to using ludicrous names

The recent move to suggest roads should be named after local people who have achieved something is a good one and would be a way to commemorate those who have put something into communities or left their hometowns and prospered elsewhere. But it should not be politically motivated.

The 80s saw a succession of ludicrous left wing councils naming otherwise normal streets after obscure Latin American "freedom fighters" or subsequently disgraced African politicians. It became a standing joke.

Paul Crowther
By email

Countdown begins to the next festivities

Can I be the first to tell readers from today (January 7) – there are only 352 days until Christmas?

I wonder when the first adverts for toys will appear on TV and the first cards will be on sale in stores?

Around early September I'd say judging by last year.

Lucy Pearce
By email

Money is poured down the drains

The annual cost of removing pesticide residues from drinking water is £120 million.

What millions do heavy metals, contraceptive, other hormones and prescription drug contamination of drinking water cost? Water purification is done but accidents and human error can happen during the steady decline of service provision in England.

Over 137,000 people lost their jobs over the last three months with little prospect of gainful employment in the worst recession since 30s. Corporate bankers and those with government protection

have no need to worry apparently. Job centre staff in Liverpool openly poked fun at jobseekers in circulated emails.

The slums of the future (cheap, high density flats) are taking over suburbs, cities and any available building site in counties – short on hospitals or affordable dentists (doctors can now earn almost £300,000 per year, nurse practitioners £100,000, but patient services are unaffordable). Councils boast about getting supermarkets and developers to provide infrastructure as part of their planning brief. A free market economy has turned England into Little America with all the downsides of the USA.

Are chuckle heads in charge? What about the latest New Local (Lunatic) Government Network claptrap to rename parks and roads with local heroes' names whatever that means, Beckham for Manchester, even though he is hardly a local.

Rita Grootendorst
by email

Turn over a new leaf as a vegetarian

After the Christmas excess, you may well be considering making some New Year's resolutions.

This is the perfect time to make a fresh start, and take steps towards a fitter, healthier, happier you.

For a free Go Veggie pack, full of delicious and nutritious recipes, tips and advice on cutting the cruelty out of your diet call 01732 364546 or visit www.animalaid.org.uk.

Ashley Owen, Animal Aid

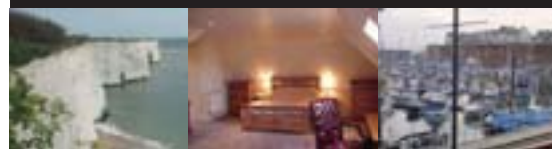


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LEGENDS OF ROCK: Status Quo will play Bedgebury Pinetum & Forest's first concert of the summer – tickets are likely to sell extremely quickly

Your Quota of solace

Summer concerts to banish winter blues

AFTER all the festive excitement, cast your mind ahead to the entertainment treats that 2009 will bring.

It is never too early to think about the summer, so banish those winter blues with thoughts of warm sun on your back and great music in your ears.

Bedgebury National Pinetum & Forest has announced the line-up for its big summer concerts, and music fans can look forward to another fantastic weekend.

On the Saturday, legendary rockers Status Quo will be filling the forest air with their unmistakable sound.

Tickets for Quo's outdoor gigs always sell out quickly, so book soon to avoid missing out on this musical treat. The band last played at Bedgebury three years ago and, having sold out three forest concerts last year, are looking forward to returning to the Kent setting.

Having been in the business for five decades, Status Quo are a rock'n'roll institution. They have sold more than 118 million records worldwide and scored more than 63 hit UK singles, more than any other band.

Their records have spent more than seven and a half years in the charts and they made 106 appearances on Top of the Pops.

In a real change of tone, the Sunday will see Katherine Jenkins dazzling the audience with her spectacular voice. A true symbol of girl power, the classical superstar's fifth album outsold the likes of Girls Aloud and the Spice Girls. At just 28,

SUMMER CONCERTS

Saturday and Sunday, June 6-7,
Bedgebury National Pinetum & Forest,
Goudhurst

she is already the fastest-selling soprano ever, with global record sales of more than three million.

She will be accompanied by the National Symphony Orchestra as she demonstrates the versatile voice that has allowed her to sing everything from the great arias of opera to the Hollywood classics.

Tickets cost £32 for Status Quo and £32.50 for Katherine Jenkins, subject to a booking fee. To book, phone the ticket hotline on 01842 814612, buy online at www.forestry.gov.uk/music, or go to the Bedgebury visitor centre.

The Bedgebury concerts are just two of the exciting events happening in Kent later this year. Canterbury's Lounge on the Farm is back during July 10-12 and music lovers can look forward to another great weekend of music. For updates, you can visit www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk.

After a mixed reaction to the Zoo8 event last summer, Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, near Hythe, pledged to return with an improved festival for 2009. Line-up and ticket details are still to be announced.

Sellindge Music Festival became a fully-fledged music event for the first time last year, attracting Idlewild as its headline act.

Tickets go on sale this month for the three-day event, which returns to Hope Farm, near Ashford, from June 5-7. You can find out more at www.sellindgemusicfestival.co.uk.



BIG VOICE: Soprano Katherine Jenkins

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ART

until Wednesday,
February 11,
Maidstone House, Maidstone

LOCAL artist Danny Green is the first to display his work in an exciting new exhibition space.

The Walkway, a 30-metre space at Maidstone House in King Street, is hosting Green's exhibition on the theme of childhood and memory. To create impact in such a large space, the art has to be striking and Green's work is the perfect choice.

The images on display include Tea Party (pictured) which Green created from a black and white family photo from the mid-60s. It shows Green and his sister in a paddling pool and the artist believes that, although it is an autobiographical piece, it is still relevant to others as they recall their own memo-



ries of childhood. Green works and gives art tuition from his studios in Wateringbury. He is represented by the locally-based Liberty Gallery. To see a

selection of his work, or for more information, call 01732 522311 or visit www.liberty-gallery.com. The Walkway is open from Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm.

NEW SEASON

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells

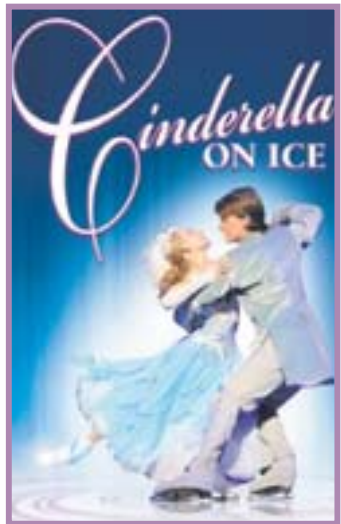
FROM children's favourites to music legends, there is something for everyone at the Assembly Hall Theatre this spring.

January's highlights include a concert by the Grimethorpe Colliery Band and bone-crunching action from American Wrestling. Next month, Horrible Histories visits with two children's shows: the Frightful First World War; and the Woeful Second World War.

Music will be provided by former Mike and the Mechanics vocalist Paul Carrack, along with the charming 4 Poofs and a Piano.

Psychic Colin Fry will baffle audiences, while Basil Brush stars in High Skool Mania. The entertainment continues in March with one-man gag machine Jimmy Carr, soul legends Billy Ocean and Alexander O'Neal & Friends and X Factor finalist Andy Abraham.

Geordie comedian Ross Noble visits for two nights in early April. Later that month the world-famous Imperial Ice Stars sweep into town with their magical interpretation of Cinderella on Ice. Full listings can be found at www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk. Book online or call the box office on 01892 530613/532072.



MUSIC, COMEDY AND ENTERTAINMENT

New season, Hazlitt Arts Centre, Maidstone

MUSIC, laughter and drama can be found in the spring programme at the Hazlitt Arts Centre.

The theatre welcomes a tempting line-up of top names this season including the talented 4 Poofs and a Piano. As the house band on BBC's Friday Night With Jonathan Ross, the quartet have gained many fans for their imaginative introductions for celebrity guests. Now they have taken their own brand of music and comedy on the road, stop-

ping off at the Hazlitt on January 31. Comedian Mark Watson and psychic Tony Stockwell will also be appearing this month.

In February, award-winning comedian and 8 Out of 10 Cats star Jason Manford pays a visit, as does the engaging cricket commentator Henry 'Blowers' Blofield.

Stand-up Shappi Korsandi and Britain's top female comedy trio Fascinating Aida (below) will keep the laughs coming in March, while soul band The Real Thing will be on song in April.

With monthly music and comedy nights, there is plenty more entertainment on offer. For more information call 01622 758611 or visit www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk.



MAIDSTONE LEISURE

Funnyman Ince isn't getting any younger

COMEDIAN Robin Ince will be performing at the Trinity Theatre in Tunbridge Wells later this month.

As well as regularly appearing on topical TV and radio comedy shows, Ince has appeared in BBC's sitcom Lab Rats and is "the second oldest writer" on Channel 4's teen drama Skins.

The show starts at 8pm on Sunday, January 18. Tickets cost £13/£11. To book, call the box office on 01892 678678 or go online at www.trinitytheatre.net.

Make trails and give Slug Pixies a listen

GET ready to rock out when the Slug Pixies perform in Maidstone this weekend.

Formed in 2002, the band's sound has been described as "rock music for the hard of hearing". Find out more by visiting the website at www.slugpixies.com.

The band will be playing at The Pilot in Upper Stone Street at 9pm on Saturday. For more information, call the pub on 01622 691162.

Maverick Montgomery will earn Zebra stripes

NASHVILLE singer/songwriter Kevin Montgomery will be Maverick/Zebra's first artist of the year.

Montgomery has a strong following in the UK and is sure to win new fans when he visits the Zebra Bar in King Street, Maidstone, on Monday. The show starts from 7.45pm and tickets cost £15 in advance, £17.50 on the door. To book, call 01622 744481. For details, visit www.myspace.com/maverick_zebra.

Want to see your event listed in these pages?

WOULD you like to see your event publicised on these pages?

Send full details – including dates, times, ticket prices and how to book – to jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk or by post to the address on page 2.

Submissions should arrive at least two weeks before the preferred date of publication. If possible, include a good photo to illustrate your event. We cannot guarantee coverage, but we will do our best to promote local events.

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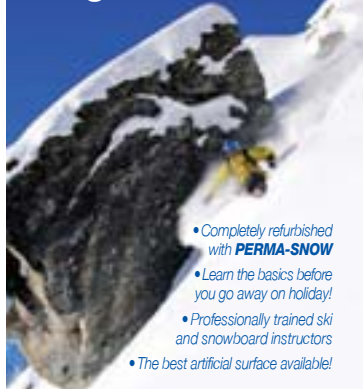


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Stretch yourself to ease those aches and pains

IF the thought of heading back to the gym fills you with dread, yoga could be the new hobby for you this year.

As well as increasing flexibility and promoting relaxation, yoga has been shown to alleviate the symptoms of common complaints such as backache, PMS, IBS, anxiety, insomnia and stress.

The Yoga Sanctuary in Barham is a designated yoga space, designed by teachers Cheryl Rivers and Caroline Bindon-Blood. Call 01227 720061 or 01227 711258 or visit www.theyoga-sanctuary.co.uk.

Soothe away the festive feasting at a luxury spa

AFTER the Christmas excesses, Kent's spas can offer the perfect antidote.

Eastwell Manor in Boughton Lees, near Ashford, is offering a Plus Two Package, including a two-course lunch and two spa treatments, for £128. Its Golf and Spa Break (£210 each) includes a one-night stay, dinner in the manor house, spa flotation treatment and four rounds of golf. Call 01233 213000 or visit www.eastwellmanor.co.uk.

The Hythe Imperial's packages start from £99 for a one-day spa break. Call 01303 267441 or see www.mercure.com.

Step up to the exercise challenge with DVDs

SHAPE up in celebrity style with fitness DVDs from singer Claire Richards and Loose Women star Coleen Nolan.

Former Steps star Richards lost five stone and went down five dress sizes with her 5 Step Fat Attack.

Or try Nolan's Disco Burn. Having lost three stone last year for Rosemary Conley's Brand New You DVD, she has now lost a further two by dancing and grooving.

Both DVDs are priced at £19.99.

Pamper your mind and body and feel good

BEAT the January blues with sumptuous mood-boosting products from L'Occitane.

The Butterfly Lavender Joyful Mood Body Cream (£24.45) contains extracts of lavender essential water, which can relax, soothe skin and increase production of our 'well-being molecules'.

Sleep tight with the Relaxing Pillow Mist (£11.75), which combines the soothing properties of lavender, tea tree and geranium with lime blossom.

See the stores in Canterbury and Bluewater and or www.locitane.co.uk.

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YOUR TV REVIEW

OZ AND JAMES DRINK TO BRITAIN
BBC Two, 8pm, Tuesday
DANCING ON ICE
ITV1, 7pm, Sunday

BY TOM BETTS

WHEN James May lolled his way onto our screens a few years ago he hardly seemed the domineering type.

But it's hard to escape "Captain Slow" these days and difficult to turn on the TV without seeing that slightly bemused expression peering back at you from behind one of the country's worst haircuts.

From his 20th Century show, to Top Toys, Big Ideas and, of course, Top Gear, which led him to stardom, May is everywhere.

His meteoric rise has echoed Richard Hammond's, who could also fill an entire channel with his shows.

Both are no doubt laughing all the way to the bank.

May's latest show sees him once more teaming up with Oz Clarke, the slightly over-the-top wine expert, to get drunk.

Unlike the last adventures when these two lucky chaps set out on Oz and James's Big Wine Adventure (undoubtedly inspired by the excellent film Sideways) the focus this time is more on brilliant beers than blinding Bordeaux.

The pair will travel through Britain and Ireland to marvel at all things alcoholic in a 1982 Rolls Royce Corniche. Nice work if you can get it.

The two previous series were an enjoyable enough romp as the scruffy May was time and again upstaged by the Clarke palette, leading to much entertaining alcohol-fuelled bickering, so expect more of the same this time around.



ON ICE: With Celebrity Big Brother already clogging up our schedules, brace yourself for more reality telly with Dancing On Ice

Just when you thought it was safe to return to the sofa on a weekend night, after the seemingly endless run of The X Factor and Strictly Come Dancing, ITV deal us all a real hammer blow and schedule the return of Dancing On Ice.

The whole shebang is another celebrity-led affair, of course, and I fear TV channels have long since given up with the general public.

Hollyoaks nearly man Jeremy Edwards, EastEnders' Todd Carty and various other soap nobodies will prance around on the slippery stuff for the agonisingly long 12-week run while rink royalty Torvill and Dean will once more be tormentors in chief.

The main talking point of the series last year was the plunging neckline of Holly Willoughby's frocks, which says a lot for the actual 90 minutes of skating offered up each week.

The nightmare begins on Sunday. Don't know about you but I'm bored of 2009 already.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

YOUR star is on the rise. Don't be surprised if you are given an important leadership position. People respect your ideas and are willing to follow your advice. Improving a school, house of worship, or cultural institution may take up the lion's share of your time this year.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

2009 promises to be one of the best years ever career-wise. Opportunities related to broadcasting, computers, or airline travel are looking good. You could also find a good position related to education, travel, or publishing. If you'd like to break into another industry ask a friend.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

THERE'S never been a better year to get married or start a business. Two heads are better than one. If you join finances with somebody, your fortune will increase. If you're single, this would be good time to consult a money manager. News regarding a job could reach your ears.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

SUPPORT from friends and family helps you make several breakthroughs. Don't be afraid to get counselling for a problem. Putting this issue to rest will liberate you. Romance could burst into flower this week. You're especially drawn to a shy artist who is quite spiritual.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

IT may feel as if you're surrounded by a protective shield this year. While others have problems you seem to be riding high without a care in the world. Starting this week, you'll have more time for hobbies. Ask your partner how they see your future and start making plans.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

AN opportunity to expand your horizons will come your way. Going back to school, writing a book, or living abroad could be in the cards. It's possible your job will prompt this venture. You may be hesitant to make such a move. Eventually, though, you'll enjoy this turn of events.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

IF you ever wanted to start your own business, this is the year to do it. You'll find clients at every turn. If you fulfil your responsibilities you will reach a new level of professional success. When your knees threaten to buckle under your responsibilities, turn to a loved one.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 22)

TAKING or teaching a class will lend insight to philosophical matters. It's possible you'll adopt a religious philosophy or spiritual outlook. Repainting a drab room could make a tremendous difference to your mood. Your leadership ability could help you land a lucrative job.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

SPENDING more time on solitary pleasures will help you recover from a hectic festive season. Friends will assume an increased importance in your life. When you feel overwhelmed ask your loved ones for help. They'll be happy to help. Open your heart and be receptive.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

YOUR love life gets a boost this year. You could meet someone special at a house of worship, adult classroom, or library. Keep your eyes open for an offbeat rebel with a generous spirit. If you're in a relationship, 2009 is a good time to make a major change in your home or career.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

THIS week kicks off a period of fun, romance, and adventure. It's possible that you'll be able to mix business with pleasure. When you have a little extra money, invest it in your wardrobe. When you look good, you feel good. A relative may be poised to give you the financing.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

YOUR income is in for a boost. A rise helps you afford luxuries previously beyond reach. Be sure to spend a portion of your cash on an overseas trip. A love letter or birthday message puts a spring in your step. Don't hesitate to propose bold plans. You never know who is listening.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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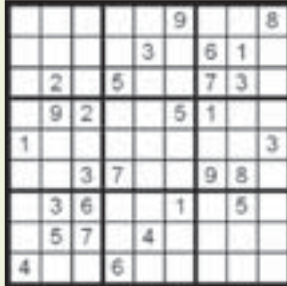
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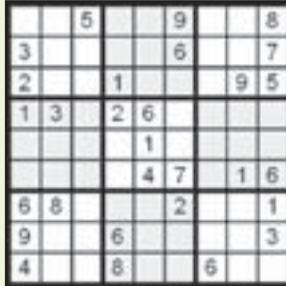
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CRYPTIC CLUES

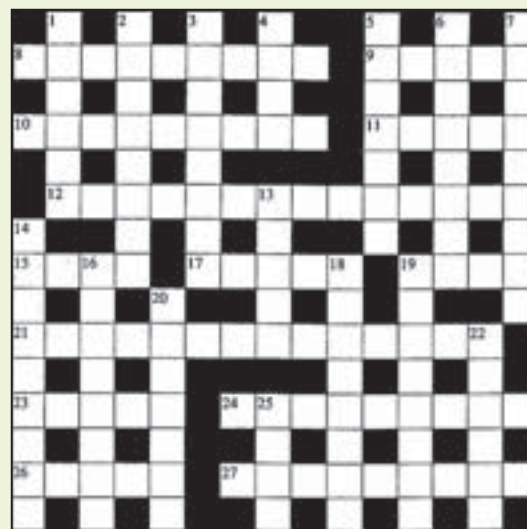
ACROSS

- 8 Underground room in the act had been decoded (9)
9 During tremor a grand lady appeared (5)
10 Post Office (9)
11 Comfort companion at all times (5)
12 Putting a stop to something after one's had a bath (7,3,4)
15 Not the whole role (4)
17 Search into books for information about dig (5)
19 Piquancy of orange-peel (4)
21 Reprimand for having to score goal perhaps in one's underwear (4,2,3,5)
23 Daughter in rain moved to lowest point (5)
24 A way Ronald has with gold model, a spaceman (9)
26 Produced a bloomer using lower mouthpiece (5)
27 Additional part for accomplice (9)

DOWN

- 1 Get back, are lacking a successful move (6)
2 Bet Clare could remove ornamental chain (8)
3 With this one is not prejudiced to receive and consider new ideas (4,4)
4 We're endlessly going round one dam (4)
5 Kiss for £!! (7)
6 Real sportsman who is unswervingly faithful (4-4)
7 Total of materials used with cement to form concrete (9)
13 Pull up child from deep valley (5)
14 Said quartet said to be reserved (6,3)
16 Carol held redirected to town near Manchester (8)
18 One selling overseas was stout (8)
19 Clownishness of last character Annie performing on board (8)
20 Mess is putrid, I leave to break up (7)
22 Unimportant person quits turning runs inside (6)
25 Clothing cassocks hide (4)

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QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 8 SW US state (3,6)
9 Farewell (5)
10 Obstacle (9)
11 Roman (anag.) (5)
12 Not good enough (1,4)
15 Roman garment (4)
17 Just (5)
19 Machine-gun (4)
21 Mathematical term (6,8)
23 Reward (5)
24 Temperate (9)
26 Steel mast (5)
27 Immunise (9)

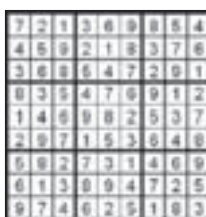
DOWN

- 1 Unpleasant familiar illusion (4,2)
2 Food of the gods (8)
3 Man appointed by testator (8)
4 Frozen (4)
5 Hanging bed (7)
6 Postings (anag.) (8)
7 Extracting from open excavation (9)
13 Sweetener (5)
14 Tall silk hat (9)
16 Easily tricked (8)
18 Sound of a clock (4-4)
19 Rotating (8)
20 Pepper (7)
22 Fourscore and ten (6)
25 Heehaw (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No68

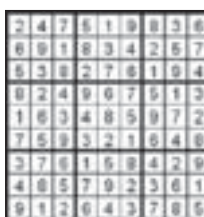
EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No68

ACROSS: 1 Capsicum 6 Bedsit 9 Vandal 10 Linotype 11 Lacking drive 13 Globe 14 Anglemorm 17 Coagulate 19 Cruise 21 Well-informed 24 Physique 25 De-icer 26 Writhe 27 Unevenly. DOWN: 2 Ajax 3 Saddlebag 4 Calico 5 Million 6 Benignly 7 Deter 8 Impoverish 12 Altogether 15 Worldwide 16 Clinique 18 Thoreau 20 Smudge 22 Liszt 23 Peal.

QUICK SOLUTION No69

ACROSS: 8 New Mexico 9 Adriu 10 Barmecide 11 Minor 12 Unsubstantiated 15 Toag 17 Right 19 Saint 21 Vilgar fraction 23 Prize 24 Absinent 26 Pylon 27 Vacholate. DOWN: 1 Dajia 2 Ambrosia 3 Quavryne 13 Sugar 14 Slovenly 16 Gullible 18 Tick-tock 19 Spinning 20 Cayenne 22 Ninety 25 Bray.

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Top five Kent gigs

1. IntraVerse - 13/2/09 at Style & Winch in Maidstone
2. Shychlo And The Boys - 27/2/09 at The Westcoast Bar in Margate
3. A Thousand Ways To Fall - 12/3/09 at The Beercart Arms in Canterbury
4. Blackburner - 13/3/09 at Snowdon Colliery Welfare Club in Aylesham
5. Kayley Weller - 28/3/09 at The Alma in Deal

Anarchy night Taps into some rocking new acts

BY SIMON ROBINSON

A HOST of up-and-coming bands has been lined up to play at the Tap'n'Tin this month – giving music fans the chance to catch a glimpse of the industry's next best things.

Seven groups will take to the stage in the coming weeks, performing at the Chatham venue's Anarchy All Ages club night, open to anyone over the age of 16.

First up on Sunday (January 11) is The Chase, with support coming from Fate Of A Stranger and The Startover.

Lower Than Atlantis headline the next Anarchy night on Sunday, January 25, with Pay No Respect, Breaking The Day and Trial Of Fifty also on the bill. Tickets cost £6, or £5 with an Anarchy wristband.

For more details, visit www.tapntin.co.uk.

Here's a selection of short band biogs to whet your appetite:

The Chase

The unsigned London five-piece cite Foo Fighters, Oasis and The Killers among their influences, but their sound is more akin to the American emo-rock favoured by the likes of Fallout Boy and Panic At The Disco.

Later this month the band will set off on a seven-date UK tour with Farewell City and Scarlet Desire in tow. Having built up a 21,000-strong army of online fans, this could be the year The Chase break through.

See www.myspace.com/thechaseuk.

Fate of a Stranger

Fellow Luton-based emo-rockers Fate Of A Stranger offer a "self-styled brand of post-



TUNE IN: The Chase and Lower Than Atlantis, right, are just two of the great bands set to play at Chatham's Tap'n'Tin

hardcore rock", with driving guitar riffs and catchy vocals drawing a legion of admiring fans.

See www.myspace.com/fateofastrangeruk.

The Startover

The lively quartet describe their sound as a fusion of rock, punk and alternative genres. Simple, well-written songs will see their popularity blossom in the coming months.



If you miss the Tap gig, you can catch The Startover live on three occasions in Maidstone next month.

See www.myspace.com/thisisthestartover.

Lower Than Atlantis

Watford-born four-piece rockers Lower Than Atlantis, who are signed to the Thirty Days Of Night label, come to Medway on Sunday, January 25, and are sure to test the venue's sound system.

All the rock essentials are there – fast guitars, loud vocals and bundles of energy.

Pay No Respect

Heavier than the night's headliners, Pay No Respect offer the darker side to the rock scene – dishing out three-minute songs of screamed vocals and menacing drum beats.

See www.myspace.com/paynorespect.

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YES MAN (12A)



Carl Allen finds his life in a constant rut, with no social life and few adventures. After an encounter with a motivational speaker, he embarks on a hilarious journey when he begins to say yes to everything. Based on the best-seller by Danny Wallace, Yes Man explores what one word can do to change your life forever.

CHE - PART ONE (15)



Award-winning director Steven Soderbergh brings the life story of Ernesto 'Che' Guevara to the big screen. In the first of a two-part work, Che is found working with Fidel Castro to co-ordinate the 1956 mission to take control of Cuba. On their journey to topple the dictatorship, they encounter massive support and forge life-long friendships.

Pair are in good spirits

BY KATE WHITING

SAMUEL L Jackson is humming a ditty and looks so happy with the world, it's impossible not to beam at him as he shakes my hand.

The 60-year-old actor has plenty of reasons to be content. For a start, he's sitting next to the ever-glamorous Scarlett Johansson and he's just been honoured with a prestigious American Cinematheque Award for his contribution to movies.

Today, at a luxurious London hotel, he's in an ebullient mood. He's very enthusiastic about his latest film role in the daringly comic-like film adaptation of Will Eisner's The Spirit.

Samuel plays The Octopus, a deeply disturbed scientist and master of the criminal underworld, while 24-year-old Scarlett is his sexy sidekick Silken Floss.

It's clear from the way the pair are so relaxed and chatty with each other that they forged a strong friendship on set.

"We definitely enjoyed ourselves," says Scarlett, flashing Sam a cheeky smile.

"Amazingly we'd only see each other at award shows, but the moment we got on the plane together leaving LA, we kind of went 'Right, we're going to have a good time'," explains Sam.

"We just looked at each other and smiled and laughed and I thought 'OK, I like her'. We connected immediately and we had a good time every day. No matter what kind of time anyone else was having, we had a good time."

The Spirit tells the story of Denny Colt (played by newcomer Gabriel Macht), a murdered policeman who has mysteriously come back to life as the masked



ADAPTED: Scarlett Johansson, Samuel L Jackson and Eva Mendes star in The Spirit

crime-fighter, The Spirit. He has just one goal in mind, keeping his beloved Central City safe from villains like The Octopus, but he still finds time for a string of beautiful women who either want to love or kill him.

With Sin City creator and director Frank Miller at the helm, Sam and Scarlett were given free rein to play around with their baddie image, particularly because their characters were only roughly

sketched out in Will Eisner's original 40s comic.

We're used to seeing Sam tackling a range of character-driven roles in films ranging from Pulp Fiction to Snakes On A Plane. But it's unusual to see Scarlett, who made her name through a mix of indie films and costume dramas, in such a quirky role.

The Octopus and Silken go through an incredible number of costume changes – one minute

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they're a samurai warrior and geisha and the next Scarlett's in a very revealing nurse's outfit with curly white wig.

"A lot of times you're a character like a journalist, for instance, and you don't have the opportunity to be all costumed and glamorous and really play with different looks," the actress explains.

"I was really inspired by the golden age of Hollywood, by Lucille Ball and other actresses from the 40s. I wanted to play with that film noir look. But you're not necessarily conscious of it while you're working. It's something you do and when the director says 'Wow, you look fabulous', you're like 'Yes, that two hours in hair and make-up was worth it!'"

Next year Scarlett will be back on screen with Jennifer Aniston and Drew Barrymore in He's Not That Into You, while Sam has just finished 'torturing' Michael Sheen in the thriller Unthinkable.

But before then the pair celebrated the festive season at home in the States with their families – Sam with his wife of 28 years Latanya and their daughter Zoe – and Scarlett with her new husband, actor Ryan Reynolds.



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Your very own prison break

■ BY JANE CONNOLLY

ANYONE who fancies spending the night behind bars will want to break into Malmaison Oxford.

The former Victorian prison has been converted into a luxurious boutique hotel, which offers a real change of scene for law-abiding travellers. A million miles away from the identikit feel of many chain hotels, this unusual and striking site is the perfect base from which to explore the equally engaging city of Oxford.

Easy to reach by car and just five minutes' walk from the railway station, the hotel is just around the corner from the city's main shopping streets. Parking is limited and it is recommended visitors book a space in advance.

We were welcomed into the dramatic reception by polite and immaculately presented staff and the level of service never dropped from then on. Our luggage and car could be left in their good hands well before the 3pm check-in, allowing us to go off and explore at our leisure.

I was unsure how it would feel to be accommodated in a former prison and the main building still boasts its gantries and original cell doors. But soft lighting and tasteful furnishings meant that although the place was undeniably atmospheric, there was nothing gloomy about it.

Our room was in the House of Corrections and did not have as many original features as rooms in the main building, but it still had deep-set stone window frames and looked out onto the large courtyard.

The room was large with a lovely modern bathroom and the chic decor incorporated clever references to the site's former function. Cushions made of rough blanket fabric perched on the crisp white sheets and luxurious throw, while a complimentary pair of pink handcuffs added a touch of humour.



IN THE CLINK: Malmaison is a stunningly converted Victorian prison, and gives a break to Oxford an unusual twist

Dinner in the cosy subterranean brasserie was a real treat, with the hotel paying as much attention to the quality of the food as to the service and ambience. Best of all, you would not need to rob a bank to enjoy a meal there.

Our starters of jabugo iberico ham (£8) and Oxford blue cheese fondue (£6.95) were delicious, while the main courses were mouth-watering. I ordered the delicious roasted breast of duck with garlic cream potato (£16.95) and my husband could not praise his slow-cooked belly pork (£12.95) enough. We finished the meal with a light crème brûlée (£5.95) and ice cream respectively, before retiring to the funky bar for a nightcap.

Breakfast made a refreshing change to the slapdash affair found in many hotels. Our

superb cooked breakfasts – full English for him, eggs Benedict with bacon for me – cost £13.95 and included all we could eat from the impressively rustic buffet.

Oxford itself is a hugely attractive city, with beautiful buildings wherever you look in the centre and plenty to explore. It is also excellent for shopping, offering an extensive choice of high street stores and an apparently thriving array of independent traders. We will definitely be making a return visit and would highly recommend the Malmaison Oxford as somewhere to enjoy a memorable prison break.

Prices start from £150 per room, per night. Parking costs £20 for 24 hours.

• Malmaison Oxford, Oxford Castle, Oxford
Telephone: 01865 268400 www.malmaison.com



Travel details

Accessibility: It takes less than two hours to reach Oxford from Kent as the city is connected to London and the M25 by the M40. Parking in the city centre is limited but visitors can take advantage of the Park & Ride system. There is a frequent rail service, taking approximately an hour, from London Paddington to Oxford.

What to see: Students who attend Oxford's world-renowned university study in beautiful buildings that can be admired around the city centre. Duke Humfrey's Library and the Divinity School in the Bodleian Library have both doubled for rooms in Hogwarts in the Harry Potter films. The stunning Christ Church College, with its cathedral, choir, meadow and picture gallery, is one of the highlights of any tour.

Explore the city with a variety of guided, DIY and bus tours which take in the architecture and history of this fascinating city. Just eight miles outside Oxford is the magnificent Blenheim Palace, birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill and home to the 11th Duke of Marlborough. For more ideas visit www.visitoxford.org.



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MOTORS NEWS



SMC's smack in the eye for the recession

KENT dealer group SMC has kicked off 2009 with a recession-busting sale at its Ford and Mitsubishi outlets with savings of more than £15,000 possible against list prices on new cars and many bargains on used stock.

There will also be a prize draw for customers who take advantage of the 'Great SMC Sale' running until January 31.

They could win a large LCD television, Apple iPod Touch or an X-Box 360 games console, with the draw to be held on February 18.

Ford's line-up has just had a further upgrade with the all-new Fiesta (pictured) and also includes the Focus – the UK's no1 seller – the latest Mondeo family model plus award-winning MPVs: the C-Max, sporty S-Max and spacious Galaxy people carrier.

SMC has sites at Crayford, Gravesend and Sittingbourne.



Fiat gadget helps drivers cut costs and emissions

FIAT claims thousands of motorists using its eco:Drive fuel-saving advice device since launch in October, have saved more than 163,000kg of CO2.

The free-of-charge tool helps drivers understand and adjust the impact of their driving style on fuel consumption and CO2 emissions.

Using a USB stick plugged into the car's dashboard, eco:Drive records detailed information about the vehicle and how it is driven, which can be uploaded on to a computer (see picture). It then gives an analysis of the driver's performance, along with suggestions on how to improve efficiency further by improving driving methods.

"eco:Drive offers real benefits, helping drivers improve driving efficiency, saving fuel and reducing their impact on the environment," says Andrew Humberstone of Fiat Group Automobiles UK.

People using eco:Drive can become part of eco:Ville, an online community. Members have used it to offer ideas and feedback over the last three months, which Fiat has responded to – already the company has released four enhanced versions of the system.

Next year eco:Drive will become available for use in the Fiat Bravo and Qubo – it already features in Fiat 500 and Grande Punto models – and there are plans to further widen the scope of the technology across the entire range.



PRESSURE IS ON: The new Vauxhall Corsa is giving the Fiesta a run for its money with sharper styling and elements to appeal to a variety of supermini buyers

Strong Corsa is out to spoil Fiesta-time

BRITAIN'S supermini race tends to be a two-horse tussle between the Ford Fiesta and Vauxhall Corsa and the latter might be expected to be under pressure now from the all-new Ford.

But don't jump to conclusions; the Vauxhall has been exceptionally dominant while waiting for the new generation Ford and won't be giving ground easily.

The Corsa is more sharply styled than before and can court different categories of buyer: the low slung three-door attracts younger buyers, while the smart yet more practical five-door caters for families and older customers.

Where the old Corsa had also started to look low rent inside, against supermini rivals and newer Vauxhall models, the latest is a paragon of quality, using high grade materials and brighter interior colours and trims.

The steering wheel is adjustable for height and reach on most models, the seats are higher quality and the dash is attractive and well-underlined. Underlining the car's youthful

ROAD TEST VAUXHALL CORSA

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

appeal, there is also an MP3 audio connection on most models.

Leg, shoulder and headroom front and rear has increased across the board and Vauxhall claims the cabin is one of the quietest in its class, with reduced NVH (noise, vibration and harshness). Having driven several versions now, I can't argue with that and the car handles and rides in a much tidier fashion than of old too – there is even a cracking little VXR 'pocket rocket' model.

As more of us downsize in search of greener motoring or convenience, the new Corsa also falls into what I call the 'supersize-me-mini' segment, typified by the latest Renault Clio, Fiat Punto and Peugeot 207. These bigger superminis deliver greater crash protection and retain some big car comforts for owners seeking to reduce both their physical and carbon footprint on the roads.

The 1.4 Club is the best seller – Club is the mid-range trim above Expression and Life, while the 1.4i petrol engine delivers a balance of economy, power and refinement. But it is the SXi tested here (list price £10,550) that cuts a dash with its sporty looks and smart alloys as standard.



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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

USED SMALL SUPERMINI/MPVS

SO successful has been the MPV (multi-purpose vehicle) or 'people carrier' concept that its influence has carried over to other car sectors. None more so than superminis, where designs are tending to be taller and more flexible, with 'smart' seating arrangements, extra headroom and load-lugging ability. None of the trio here would win styling prizes, but such versatility comes as standard and they are probably the closest to being the market's 'jacks of all trades'. After several years on the market, affordable examples should be easy to find too.

VAUXHALL MERIVA



NOT quite as influential as Vauxhall's bigger Zafira perhaps, but the Meriva has become a popular used buy with families seeking a manageable yet capacious family holdall. The car drives and handles well and offers a higher driving position than equivalent family hatches and estates, without being ridiculously lofty. Add Vauxhall's usual versatile 'Flex' system interior features, a reputation for reliability and a good range of engines including diesels and you can see why Meriva used prices can be high.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

HONDA JAZZ



HONDA'S Jazz has definitely hit the right note and won a host of awards. Beware early examples, which were too firmly sprung for some tastes, but later models are good to drive and better to ride in while retaining cheeky looks and versatile rear seating. The range lacks a diesel, but offers a continuously variable automatic gearbox (CVT) option with pre-selected positions that are reassuring to use, while bringing all the benefits of a CVT auto's better fuel consumption.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

NISSAN NOTE



NISSAN threw the rule book away with the Note to create a partial replacement for its long-running yet unloved Almera family hatchback, while also acquiring a small MPV with a more compact stance. The result is a versatile, roomy and manageable small car with lots of clever features including a reversible boot floor that covers a spacious lower compartment. The Note's engines are also good news, with a Renault-supplied 1.5-litre turbodiesel the most desirable, for mixing power with economy.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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ALFA ROMEO

146 T1, 5 door, p 1996, a car that will one day become a collectors item. this car is a 2 owner from new with full service history mainly main dealer. It has the 2.0 engine which produces 150bhp, along with a 5 speed manual gearbox, red, 94000 miles, £1495, Courtenay Cars, Charing, Ashford, 01233 714848 (TRADE)

SPIDER, 3.2 V6, g57rly, alloy wheels, anti-lock brakes, climate control, drivers airbag, metallic paint, leather interior, electric windows, passenger airbag, power steering, remote central locking, side airbags, tinted glass, traction control, trip computer, blue, 9000 miles, £20995, Thames Group Turbidge Wells, Turbidge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

AUDI

A6, SE 4dr 2.4 Man, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, abs, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, radio, 13000 miles, £3495, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

TT, Quattro, 303, trim: leather engine size: 1800 transmission: manual no. of doors: 2, silver, 41000 miles, £13995, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 288554 (TRADE)

BMW

7 SERIES, 745i auto, 2002, silver met with black nascar leather, 32000 miles, £14950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

AVEO, 2008, abs air conditioning anti theft protection of player central locking clock driver airbag driver seat height adjustment electric front windows passenger airbag power steering radio tiltable steering wheel wiper rear window, poly silver, 25 miles, £8145, FGBames, Maidstone, 01622 755531 (TRADE)

LACETTI, SX 5dr, gk56zti, folding rear seats, height adjustable seat, head restraints, anti-theft system, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, power steering, air bag, multiple airbags, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, cd player, air conditioning, electric front windows, twin air bags, child locks, abs, adjustable steering column, electric mirrors, radio, stereo, aluminium silver, 9000 miles, £5995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

LACETTI, 2008, abs air conditioning anti theft protection of player central locking clock driver airbag driver seat height adjustment electric front windows electric rear windows exterior mirror heated exterior mirrors electric passenger airbag power steering radio rear window heated rotation counter steering wheel with colour coded tiltable steering wheel, black, 5700 miles, £6950, FGBames, Maidstone, 01622 755531 (TRADE)

MATIZ, 2007, abs air conditioning anti theft protection of player central locking clock driver airbag electric front windows exterior mirrors electric exterior temperature passenger airbag power steering revoluton counter, silver, 12100 miles, £4650, FGBames, Maidstone, 01622 755531 (TRADE)

MATIZ, 1.0 SE+ Hatchback 5dr 995cc, 56/2006, a/con radio/cd player electric windows pas abs central locking, metallic blue, 14, 000 miles, £4995, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

MATIZ, 2008, abs air conditioning anti theft protection of player central locking clock driver airbag electric front windows exterior mirrors electric exterior temperature passenger airbag power steering radio revoluton counter wiper rear window, 7100 miles, £4950, FGBames, Maidstone, 01622 755531 (TRADE)

MATIZ, SE 5dr, h56wtp, blue, 600 miles, £5295, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

MATIZ, SE 5dr, ao56n, immobiliser, electric clocking, cloth upholstery, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, air bag, power steering, electric windows, cd player, silver, 5000 miles, £4995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

NEW MATIZ, 2008, abs air conditioning anti theft protection of player central locking driver airbag electric front windows exterior mirrors electric exterior temperature passenger airbag power steering radio rear window heated, mightly blue, 25 miles, £6995, FGBames, Maidstone, 01622 755531 (TRADE)

NEW MATIZ, 2008, abs air conditioning anti theft protection of player central locking clock driver airbag electric front windows exterior mirrors electric exterior temperature passenger airbag power steering radio revoluton counter, poly silver, 25 miles, £6995, FGBames, Maidstone, 01622 755531 (TRADE)

TACUMA, CDX Plus, ca07wxc, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, locking wheel nuts, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, height adjustable seat, lumbar support, folding rear seats, rear headrests, rear wash/wipe, metallic paintwork, colour coded body, multiple airbags, abs, power steering, electric front windows, air conditioning, twin air bags, adjustable steering column, electric mirrors, stereo, radio, cd player, child lock, 16" alloys, grey, 3000 miles, £5995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

TACUMA, CDX Plus, e55cag, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, centre armrest, head restraints, height adjustable seat, lumbar support, folding rear seats, rear wash/wipe, metallic paintwork, abs, power steering, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, 15" alloys, grey, 7000 miles, £5995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

TACUMA, CDX Plus, g57rly, electric front windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, rear wash/wipe, metallic paintwork, abs, multiple airbags, adjustable steering column, power steering, anti-theft system, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, height adjustable seat, folding rear seats, rear headrests, 15" alloys, grey, 4000 miles, £6495, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

CHRYSLER

300C, 5.7v8 auto estate, 2007, brilliant crystal tint with dark and light shade gr, 10577 miles, £18950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

GRAND VOYAGER, g607 yze, air conditioning, full power steering, abs, curtain airbags, twin air bags, heated seats, cd player, radio, climate control, cruise control, electric windows, electric mirrors, height adjustable seat, powered folding mirrors, centre armrest, remote central locking, remote alarm, roof rails, rear headrests, rear wash/wipe, front fog lamps, adjustable steering column, alloy wheels, black, 17800 miles, £11995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

GRAND VOYAGER, ak55 xuj, air conditioning, climate control, power steering, abs, curtain airbags, twin air bags, adjustable steering column, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, cruise control, cd player, radio, electric mirrors, electric windows, powered folding mirrors, centre armrest, remote central locking, remote alarm, front fog lamps, roof rails, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, alloy wheels, grey, 30600 miles, £8995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

NEON, 2.0 LXI, 1995 (n), 95 (n) chrysler neon 2.0 bi automatic, 5 door saloon, metallic green coachwork with contrasting grey velour trim, low mileage, service history, new met, ew x 4, em, pas, air bags, original hi-fi, only 1 owner from new a snip at now £995 many more quality pre-owned cars for sale on www.rivieraautosales.co.uk, metallic green, low mileage miles, Only £995, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

CITROEN

CITROEN BERLINGO 800, 04 2005, 1.9d lx sold with car warranty side door white pas 43,000 miles fish lined, £3495, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

CITROEN BERLINGO 800, 02 2005, 1.9 d lx sold with car warranty side door white elec window white 49,000 miles fish bulkhead lined, £3350, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6HDI 600K X, 2008, 1.6hdi 600k x diesel, white, 100 miles, £5995, Barretts Citroen, Canterbury, 0845 3709768 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.9D 600K Enterprise, 2005, 1.9d 600k enterprise diesel, pacific blue, 20557 miles, £4995, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, Multipass Forte 1.9 D40 99mp 170 RFL grp 5 ins), g55cma, remote central locking, adjustable steering column, power steering, electric front windows, cloth upholstery, abs, twin air bags, head restraints, folding rear seats, rear headrests, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, cd player, radio, silver, 53000 miles, £4690, AR Cars, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, Multipass Forte D, ek55 vpe, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, power steering, adjustable steering column, electric front windows, radio cassette, twin air bags, abs, cloth upholstery, silver, 28100 miles, £5995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6HDI Refrigerated Chiller / Freezer, aaaaax, cd player, power steering, electric windows, electric mirrors, remote delivery mileage, grp lined, standby available if required (optional extra), white, 15 miles, £9995, BHRV, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, LX 800 2.0HDI Refrigerated Chiller, 2972180, grp lined, gah equipment, electric standby available if required (optional extra), white, 15 miles, £4995, BHRV, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, LX 800 2.0HDI Refrigerated Chiller, 2983180, side load door, cd player, air bag, remote central locking, electric mirrors, electric windows, low compliant, white, 23000 miles, £7295, BHRV, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.9D Refrigerated Freezer Chiller, 2993180, radio cassette, air bag, power steering, car equipment, grp lined, low compliant, aluminium silver, 39000 miles, £4695, BHRV, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

C1, 1.0i Vibe 3dr, 2008, 1.0i vibe black, £6295, Wilmos Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

C1, 1.0i Rhythm 3dr, 2006, 1.0i rhythm 3dr hatch, damas blue, 13000 miles, £6195, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

C1, 1.4i Desire 5dr, 2005, 1.4i desire 5dr hatch special edition, silver, 6998 miles, £4995, Barretts Citroen, Canterbury, 0845 3709768 (TRADE)

C1, 1.4i Rhythm 5dr, 2008, 1.4i rhythm 5dr hatch, silver, 6000 miles, £5995, Barretts Citroen, Canterbury, 0845 3709768 (TRADE)

C1, 1.4i Desire 5dr, 2005, 1.4i desire 5dr hatch special edition, red, 17300 miles, £5995, Barretts Citroen, Canterbury, 0845 3709768 (TRADE)

C1, 1.4i Desire 5dr, 2005, 1.4i desire 5dr hatch special edition, blue, 17953 miles, £5495, Barretts Citroen, Canterbury, 0845 3709768 (TRADE)

C4 PICASSO, 2008, 1.6hdi 16v tr plus 5dr (5 seat) diesel estate, grey 5 miles, £14995, Wilmos Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

C4 PICASSO, 2008, 1.6hdi 16v tr plus 5dr (5 seat) diesel estate, blue, 1000 miles, £13995, Wilmos Folkestone, Folkestone, 01303 245 588 (TRADE)

C5 2.0HDI 16V VTR+ 5dr, 2008, 2.0hdi 16v vtr+ 5dr diesel tourer, silver, 10000 miles, £17495, Wilmos Folkestone, Folkestone, 01303 245 588 (TRADE)

C5 2.0HDI 16V VTR+ 5dr, 2008, 2.0hdi 16v vtr+ 5dr diesel tourer, silver, 6 miles, £17995, Wilmos Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

C5 2.2 hdi 16V Exclusive 5dr Auto, 2005, 2.2 hdi 16v exclusive 5dr auto diesel hatch, grey, 34784 miles, £3995, Wilmos Folkestone, Folkestone, 01303 245 588 (TRADE)

C5 1.6 hdi 16V VTR 5dr, 2005, 1.6 hdi 16v vtr 5dr diesel estate, grey, 51500 miles, £8995, Wilmos Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

FIAT

GRANDE PUNTO, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti-lock brakes, drivers airbag, metallic paint, passenger airbag, power steering, remote central locking, side airbags, split/folding rear seats, trip computer, grey, 8000 miles, £8995, Thames Group Turbidge Wells, Turbidge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, anti lock brakes, drivers airbag, electric windows, metallic paint, passenger airbag, power steering, split/folding rear seats, trip computer, black, 4500 miles, £5495, Thames Group Turbidge Wells, Turbidge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

PUNTO, JTD Dynamic, g53dthm, drivers airbag, electric windows, power steering, remote central locking, climate control, metallic paint, black, 30000 miles, £4995, Thames Group Turbidge Wells, Turbidge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

PUNTO, 16v Dynamic 5dr Auto, remote central locking, alarm, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, air conditioning, cd player, twin air bags, abs, power steering, grey, 26100 miles, £4495, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

PUNTO, 1.2 8v Active Hatchback 3dr, 04/2004, electric windows city pas clocking awaiting picture, grey, 51, 000 miles, £3995, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

PUNTO, 1.2 8v Active Hatchback 3dr, 04/2004, electric windows city pas clocking awaiting picture, grey, 51, 000 miles, £3995, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

FORD

FORD CONNCT 1220, 12 2004, 1.8 dtd 75 ps swb white ply lined 80,000 miles fish sold with car warranty, £3550, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

FORD CONNCT 1220, 05 2004, 1.8 dtd 90 ps white 83,000 miles ply lined sold with car warranty, £3550, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

FORD TRANSIT, 000, hi top roof rack steel manual push ladder up, 0 miles, £50, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

FORD TRANSIT, 07 2005, 350 2.4 t 90 ps sold with car warranty lwb hi top white 29,000 miles, £6495, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4i Zetec, 2004, abs alloy wheels body coloured bumpers central locking drivers airbag folding rear seats immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd steering wheel rake adjustment trip computer service history, silver, 29000 miles, £4289, A1 Carriages, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4i Ghia, 2007, insurance group 5 abs air conditioning alloy wheels auto remote control alloy coloured bumpers drivers airbag front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser leather seats passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking trip computer 1 owner service history, amethyst, 1000 miles, £7289, A1 Carriages, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 LX 3dr (AC) Auto (2002-2005), 16/06/2003, cd player abs driver airbag immobiliser electric windows, silver, 34660 miles, £4795, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25i Zetec Climate, 2005, Janes, 6970 miles, £6495, CB Motors, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4i TDCi Style Climate, 2007, moon dust silver, 0 miles, £8995, CB Motors, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25i Style Climate, 2007, moon dust silver, 0 miles, £7995, CB Motors, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4i TDCi Style Climate, 2007, moon dust silver, 0 miles, £8995, CB Motors, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25i Style Climate, 2007, moon dust silver, 0 miles, £7995, CB Motors, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

KA, Ka Studio (2006) 3-Dr hatchback 1.3i Stage IV (-, 24/06/2007, abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser, silver, 14702 miles, £4893, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

KA, Ka Studio (2006) 3-Dr hatchback 1.3i Stage IV (-, 06/06/2007, abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser, black, 20283 miles, £4698, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

KA, 1.3i Studio [70] 3dr (2006 -), 29/07/2008, blue, 1828 miles, £4999, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

KA, 1.3i Studio [70] 3dr (2006 -), 29/07/2008, cd player driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, blue, 2637 miles, £5000, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

KA, 1.3i Studio [70] 3dr (2006 -), 29/07/2008, driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, blue, 2637 miles, £5000, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

HYUNDAI

MATRIX, gk, dy08ytr, alloy wheels, true blue, 1600 miles, £7995, Automatically Ray Morris (Bexleyheath), Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

MATRIX, gk, gloy6ym, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, roof rails, rear wash/wipe, metallic paintwork, twin air bags, electric mirrors, aluminium silver, 10000 miles, £5995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

MAZDA

MAZDA3, 1.6 TS 5dr Activematic (2004 - 1905), 01/09/2005, cd player abs electric windows, grey, 41233 miles, £5000, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MERCEDES

C-CLASS, 2.1TD C220 CDI Coupe 2d 2148cc auto, 05, evolution pack, 17" alloys, climate, cruise, cd, 1 owner, fish, under 44, 000 miles, £12995, Vikings Canterbury, Canterbury, 01227 711112 (TRADE)

C-CLASS, 1.8 C180 Compressor Classic SE Saloon 4d 1796cc auto, 06, alloys, electric seats, wood trim, climate, cruise, cd, 1 owner, fish, please view our website to see our full stock, more c180k saloon in stock, obsidian black with black cloth leather, under 11, 000 miles, £14750, Vikings Canterbury, Canterbury, 01227 711112 (TRADE)

C-CLASS, 1.8 C180 Compressor Avantgarde SE Saloon 4d 1796cc auto, 07, alloy, electric seats, climate, cruise, cd, 1 owner, fish, please view our website to see our full stock, more c180k saloon in stock, obsidian black with black cloth leather, under 11, 000 miles, £14750, Vikings Canterbury, Canterbury, 01227 711112 (TRADE)

C-CLASS, 1.8 C180 Compressor Avantgarde SE Saloon 4d 1796cc auto, 07, alloy, electric seats, climate, cruise, cd, 1 owner, fish, please view our website to see our full stock, more c180k saloon in stock, obsidian black with black cloth leather, under 11, 000 miles, £14750, Vikings Canterbury, Canterbury, 01227 711112 (TRADE)

C-CLASS, 1.8 C180 Compressor nass SE Saloon 4d 1796cc auto, 06, alloys, electric seats, wood trim, climate, cruise, cd, 1 owner, fish, please view our website to see our full stock, more c180k saloon in stock, imium silver with black cloth, under 10, 000 miles, £12995, Vikings Canterbury, Canterbury, 01227 711112 (TRADE)

MINI

ONE, 3dr, h52 ucu, front fog lamps, remote central locking, remote alarm, power steering, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, twin air bags, abs, cloth upholstery, alloy wheels, salt pack, yellow, 44900 miles, £9995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

PARTNER, L2.0HDI Refrigerated Chiller, bj55fu, remote central locking, power steering, air bag, abs, radio cassette, side load door, gah equipment, grp lined, white, 6658 miles, £5995, BHRV, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

PARTNER, 600 L 1.6 HDi, ex57xn, cloth upholstery, ply-lined, power steering, abs, cd player, metallic paintwork, aluminium silver, 10000 miles, £4245, Clearways Commercial, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

PORSCHE, 911, 3.6 Carrera 2 Tiptronic S Coupe 2d 3596cc auto (2002), 07, 19" turbo alloys, sat nav, phone module, rear parktronic, sports chronp pack, sports seats, sports suspension, sports wipers, exhaust, vsi tracking system, rear wiper, premium carpet mats, climate, base, cd, fsh, please view our website to see our full stock, basalt black with black leather, only 3, 000 miles, £5500, Vikings Canterbury, Canterbury, 01227 711112 (TRADE)

PORSCHE, 911, 3.6 Carrera 2 Tiptronic S Coupe 2d 3596cc auto (2002), 07, 19" turbo alloys, sat nav, phone module, rear parktronic, sports chronp pack, sports seats, sports suspension, sports wipers, exhaust, vsi tracking system, rear wiper, premium carpet mats, climate, base, cd, fsh, please view our website to see our full stock, basalt black with black leather, only 3, 000 miles, £5500, Vikings Canterbury, Canterbury, 01227 711112 (TRADE)

MITSUBISHI

COLT, 1.1 C21 3dr (2006 - 1905), 04/03/2006, cd player driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, black, 19418 miles, £4500, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

SHOGUN, 3.5 gdi 5dr v6 auto, 2003, silver met with black leather, 37000 miles, £9950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

SPACE STAR, 2004, abs air conditioning alloy wheels black colour bumpers central locking drivers airbag electric mirrors front electric windows front fog lights height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering wheel radio/rails steering wheel rake adjustment trip computer, haag silver, 32000 miles, £4999, Masters Group Mitsubishi Bromley, Beckenham, 0208 6587122 (TRADE)

NISSAN

ALMERA, SE 5dr Auto, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, cd player, radio, twin air bags, abs, power steering, grey, 15600 miles, £4695, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

207, Sport 5dr, 4895314, immobiliser, central locking, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, lumbar support, height adjustable seat, rear wash/wipe, metallic paintwork, abs, multiple airbags, power steering, electric front windows, air conditioning, cd player, 15" alloys, black, 5000 miles, £3995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

207, 1.6 S 5dr, h57rthy, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, air conditioning, cruise control, electric front windows, cd player, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, front fog lamps, alloy wheels, iron grey met, 4599 miles, £7999, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

207, 1.6 S 5dr, 125960127, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, cruise control, cd player, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, front fog lamps, alloy wheels, aluminium, 12987 miles, £6690, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

207, 1.6 S 5dr, 125963127, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, cruise control, cd player, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, front fog lamps, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, automatic electric windows, electric front windows, air conditioning, stereo, radio, 16" alloys, aluminium, 12186 miles, £6990, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

207, 1.6 S 5dr, 125964127, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, cruise control, cd player, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, front fog lamps, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, electric front windows, air conditioning, stereo, radio, 16" alloys, aluminium, 13375 miles, £6690, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

PARTNER, Comb Escapade HDI 90, 5dr, km, remote central locking, remote alarm, roof rails, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, electric front windows, adjustable steering column, abs, power steering, cloth upholstery, cd player, radio, silver, 12800 miles, £6995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 40

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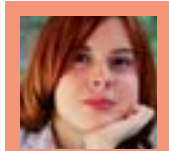
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WOMEN seeking men

SINGLE DAD WANTED

Single mum, 23, nice and curvy, 5ft6, blonde, blue eyes, likes shopping, cinema, animals, WLTW honest, trust-worthy male, 28-39, Box 446099

I LOVE FOOTBALL

Fun to be with blonde female, 25, 5ft2, loves football, going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man to be soulmate, Box 446494

MAYBE MORE

Seeking fun, friendship, maybe more. WLTW fun man 25-30, I'm female, 26, brown hair/blue eyes, average build, Box 445622

SMILES

Hi I'm 27, redhead, 5ft1, blue eyes, intelligent, open-minded, caring, loves going out, music, good meals, seeking friendship, struggles with caring, understanding guy, Box 446786

SMUGGLE UP

Tall, attractive, good hearted African female, 28yr old, enjoys films, good food and cuddles, WLTW a white male for friendship/romance, Box 441654

ON THE LOOKOUT FOR LOVE

37yr old female, 2 kids, slim, brown hair and eyes, 5ft2, looking for a caring, loving, honest and trusting male to be my someone special, Box 446552

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Good looking woman, 37, 5ft2, brown hair/eyes, 2 kids, looking for new friends, and hopefully someone special, Box 446039

SEIZE THE DAY

Loving female, 38, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more, Box 428666

LOVE TO LOVE YOU

Lovely female, 38, 5ft4, medium-large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual Seeking male for long term/serious relationship, Box 438102

DON'T PASS ME BY

Cute, single mum of 4, 38yrs old, Kent based, into all things, looking for friendship or possibly romance, Box 887983

MEND A BROKEN HEART

Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 938053

FROM ME TO YOU

Tall, leggy brunette, 38, recently bereaved, enjoys meals out or nights in, dry white wine, a good movie & cuddles, seeking a male for companionship, Box 887404

YOU'LL SMILE IF YOU DIAL

Bubbly 40yr old female, enjoys beach, pubs, clubs, WLTW a like-minded, caring male to share fun times with, Box 435102

FUN AND ROMANCE

Attractive woman, 41, 5ft6, blonde hair/blue eyes, I'd like to meet a guy for romance and fun, I enjoy cinema, pubs, meals out, Box 447009

PASSION FOR YOU

Medium build woman, 41, 5ft2, kind, caring, loving and tactile, GSOH, looking to meet a nice man for a LTR, Box 446890

COUNTRY LASS

Country-loving happy lady, 42, green eyes, long curly hair, good figure, looking for a genuine guy for a serious relationship and happy moments, Box 883723

MISS JULIE

Bubbly blonde, 44, stupid and like having a laugh good company, friendship, would like to meet new friends for hopeful love, Box 888162

DEAL OR NO DEAL? (IN DEAL)

Deal-based lady, 43, divorced, brunette, green eyes, 5ft10, likes going out, pubs, clubs, cinema, shopping, walks, loves films and all sports except cricket, Box 430384

WARM AND ALL THAT JAZZ

Warm, radiant, witty, intelligent, attractive, black female, Christian, 44, likes music, jazz, travel, art, restaurants, theatre, seeking a cultured, NS, intelligent, gentle gentleman, Box 430375

COULD IT BE YOU?

Hi I'm 44, slim, 5ft8, a redhead, love nights out, socialising, looking for friendship initially and hopefully more later on, Box 889800

HERE WE ARE

Easygoing female, 45, self-employed hairdresser, likes theatre, restaurants, socialising, sofa cuddles, seeking loyal, loving, caring male for good times and more, Box 446872

SOULMATE SOUGHT

African descent female, 45, 5ft6, tall figure, radiant, happy, attractive, loves music, theatre, travel, the arts, WLTW gentleman who is cultured, kind, solvent and fun, Box 443998

MAKE ME LAUGH!

Fun extrovert person, 45, likes cinema, going out, meals, socialising, 5ft7, dark brown hair/eyes, curvy, seeking nice guy to start off as friends with, Box 445407

EVERLASTING LOVE

Beautiful black female, 46, WLTW a caring, gentle and loving gentleman, 45-60, 5ft10+, pref a bit sporty, for a everlasting relationship, Tunbridge Wells, Box 445407

IT'S WHAT YOU MAKE OF IT!

44yr old female, blonde hair, 5ft5, slim, easygoing, enjoy many things in life, looking for someone similar there to enjoy life with! Box 436810

HAPPY GO LUCKY

Sincere, happy woman, with GSOH, I'm 5ft6, with short brown hair, brown eyes, I have lots of interests and WLTW similar guy, Box 885019

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?

Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC, Seaford, Box 444668

STIMULATING COMPANY

Bubbly, caring, single mum, 46, WLTW nice male, for good conversations, cinema, and maybe more, Box 398923

ENTHUSIASM

40yo female, medium build, blonde, cute, round, seeking tall, confident, sensual guy for regular winning, dining, loving and laughter, honest, genuine and loving, Box 438554

LAUGHTER, THE BEST MEDICINE

Help me write my stand-up comedy routine! I'm 49, you'll need to make me laugh out loud and understand observational comedy to make the grade, Box 892640

JUST IMAGINE

Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easy-going single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTW genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562

LOVING, CARING & HONEST

Hard working single mum, young 44yr old, 5ft5, medium build, enjoys dining out, holidays, cinema and walks, WLTW a caring and genuine male for friendship/relationship, Box 444751

GENUINE REPLIES ONLY

Bubbly female, 44, brunette, NS, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre, Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR, Box 445955

BLONDE AMBITION

Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 38, 5'6", likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR, Box 905614

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Hi, I'm Nikki, 41yr young, 5ft1, enjoys dining out, cinema and dancing, seeking a male for friendship, possible romance and fun times, Box 444796

WHERE R U?

Cheerful, honest, popular blonde, 50yrs old, 5ft2, slim, looking to find an honest, loyal man, I can, again, leave contact details, Box 887347

FUNNY GIRL

Petite, blonde female, 50, GSOH, likes music, books, films, cooking, looking for romantic soulmate, 40-55, for TLC, Kent, Box 835181

CARING & PROFESSIONAL

Female, 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55, Box 417100

A NEW MAN FOR THE NEW YEAR

Sue from Kent, 52, looking for an honest and sincere gentleman to share a loving and committed relationship with, Box 447493

MEND A BROKEN HEART

Hard working, kind and caring female, young 52, seeking a genuine man for a relationship, no time wasters please! Box 442286

SEEING THROUGH THE SHAYNES

Attractive female, 53, intelligent, kind, funny, non-smoking, WLTW nice, kind, normal male, 50-60, for theatre, laughs and more, Box 446383

SEEKING SOULMATE

Gorgeous slim attractive young-looking female, 54, active, wicked SOH, 5ft5, blue eyes, sociable, loves music, dancing, travelling, seeking warm, sincere man for genuine companionship, Box 446634

ENJOY LIFE

55yr old woman, brown hair/eyes, 5ft2, I'm divorced with a grown up family, I enjoy reading, travel, cinema, music, eating out, WLTW caring, genuine man, Box 446798

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MMS - standard network charges apply.

SOPHISTICATED GUY

Sue, 50yr old, 5ft4, green eyes, petite, loves cooking, holidays, reading and swimming, WLTW a tall professional male, similar age, for friendship and romance, Box 443309

NO SHALLOWNESS

Intelligent lady, 55, 5ft8, large build, looking for a nice, genuine male who enjoys theatre, meals, laughter, music, relaxing and good conversation, Box 444145

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

African lady, 58, likes reading, current affairs and travelling, WLTW an outgoing, fun-loving and honest male to share the rest of my life with, Box 451222

LIFE IS FOR LIVING

Stylish and sophisticated woman, 56, young outlook, blonde, curvy but slim, confident and outgoing, loves holidays abroad, seeks a gentleman, 50-59, for romance, Box 447475

FANCY A RIDE?

Affectionate tactile bubbly woman, young 56, 5'7", blonde, curvy, looking for lasting relationship with 50-58 year old loving man, Box 888680

HAND IN HAND, HEART TO HEART

Open-minded lady, 58, seeking male 58-63, enjoying, walking, eating out, gardening, foreign holidays and more, Box 446468

HELPI!

Positive, vivacious female, 59, 5ft4, enjoys art, seaside walks and music, seeks tallish, kind, caring male to grow old with...disgracefully, Box 144943

I HAVE A DREAM

Bubbly, bubbly curvy female, 59, looks younger, fun to be with, honest, seeks caring male to be the soul-mate, Box 446851

WALKS ALONG THE COAST

Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship, Box 441622

ONLY LOVE

Classy, intelligent, happy, slim, attractive, fit and active lady, 60, GSOH, enjoys travel, gardening etc. Looking for that special friend to share life with, Box 883791

TIME ON MY HANDS

Recently retired female, 60, 5ft1, medium build, very nice person, WLTW a male, similar age, to spend my days with, must be caring! Eastbourne, Box 445696

Women seeking women

THAT'S ME

Kind, loving, fun woman, passionate and considerate with a GSOH, I'm 24, 5ft5, and looking for an attractive female to share interests, Box 445340

FRIENDSHIP, MAYBE MORE

Curvy fit female, 32, seeks like-minded woman, for friendship, hopefully fun, single mum, work part time, Box 886142

LOVE TO LOVE

Easygoing female, 40, blue eyes, blonde hair, medium build, likes wine, dining, socialising, holidays, walks cinema, seeking likewise female for companionship and more, Box 446953

WANTS TO COOK FOR TWO

Single male, 43, no ties, very genuine, slim, 6ft4, brown hair, green eyes, loves sport and soul music, WLTW a female to date, Box 445720

I'LL MAKE YOU LAUGH

Very romantic, caring and loyal male, 44, slim, blue eyes, fair hair, great SOH, seeks female with similar interests for hopeful LTR, No time-wasters! Hastings, Box 446120

DAD'S THE WORD

Lonely single male, 44, 6ft2, fair hair, great SOH, quite happy but looking for a lady 30-40 to have fun with and hopefully something else, Box 446452

NIGHTS IN AND OUT

Separated male in Maidstone area, 44 looking for a lady, 40-50, to wine and dine and enjoy time with. Lets see what happens! Box 884411

TO THE FUTURE!

Well-built male, 44, looking for A female for friendship and fun, lets start 2008! Not being serious & with a smile! Box 883622

SHARE THE GOOD LIFE

Professional male, 45, own home/car, likes cinemas, weekends away, the coast, a BBQ and good wine, looking for friendship, hopefully more, Box 442629

HAND IN HAND ALONG THE BEACH

Genuine, honest caring bloke, 45, medium build, 5ft10, lots of love to give, loves sun, romance, cinema, seeking special lady to fall in love with, Box 441826

YOU FOR ME & ME FOR YOU...

Thoughtful, caring, divorced male, 47, athletic, black hair, enjoys concerts, walks on the beach and eating out, WLTW lady with similar characteristics for LTR, Eastbourne, Box 441719

LOTS OF LOVE TO GIVE

Family-man tired of living in a void, 47, 5ft11, very caring, looking to meet a woman with a heart of gold to be happy with, Box 447341

WELL-DRESSED CHAP

Attractive black male, 6ft, 4ft, fit and healthy, I like swimming, golf, drink WLTW white lady, Kent based, someone fun to be with, Box 447473

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DROP ME A LINE

Hi, I'm Matt, 37, short and stocky, shaved head, loving and loyal with a big heart, funny, witty and fairly intelligent! Seeking a similar female, Box 883791

AN HONEST MAN

Mark from Brighton, 38, good-looking, loves keeping fit, WLTW a genuine woman to settle down and share a good life with, Box 447313

SEARCHING FOR LOVE

Genuine single fella, 41, worked hard all my life now need to find love, seeking loving lady to have loads of fun and more with, Box 884098

LOVE ON THE DANCEFLOOR

Outgoing young-minded male, 47, a smoker, likes war games, books, cinema, castles, POL, seeking similar woman to boogie on the dancefloor with, Box 443750

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR!

Fun guy, 41, who enjoys life seeks a like-minded female to share a fun friendship full of adventures, maybe some more, Box 883569

FUN TIMES AHEAD

Caring 43yr old male, like walks, swimming, sport, dining out and quiet nights in. Looking to meet a female in the times with, Box 447329

CONSIDER THIS!

Warm and fun-loving 43yr old male, 5ft10, loves beach holidays, nights out, cinema and dancing, WLTW a considerate female with GSOH to enjoy life with, Box 447307

FUN AND CUDDLY

42yr old male, 5ft7, blue eyes, enjoys cinema, walking, swimming and cosy nights in, seeking a damsel to rescue and be happy with, East Sussex Box 443393

COME FLY WITH ME

Honest male, 43, dark hair/eyes, 5ft6, likes cinema, walks, holidays, restaurants, seeking romance, love, the woman of my dreams 34-54 for relationship and more, Box 443967

A GOOD CATCH

Young looking male, 53, 5ft10, medium build, interests include restaurants, cinemas, tv, love children, looking for a loving lady for friendship, relationship Box 421819

TOGETHER FOREVER

Very romantic, caring and loyal male, 44, slim, blue eyes, fair hair, great SOH, seeks female with similar interests for hopeful LTR, No time-wasters! Hastings, Box 446120

100% GENUINE

Young 58 man with GSOH, sick of being left alone, likes holiday, cooking and animals, looking for someone to love, age and size is unimportant, Box 447397

MY XMAS WISH THIS YEAR

60yrs young, handsome male, 6ft1, athletic, loves keep fit, cricket, classical/jazz/R&B music, cooking, travelling, dining, seeking lady to meet up with and see what happens! Box 885648

MAKING LOVE

Young 58 man with GSOH, sick of being left alone, likes holiday, cooking and animals, looking for someone to love, age and size is unimportant, Box 447397

A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Solvent, professional 41yr old male, enjoys eating out, films and keeping fit, WLTW a younger male for fun, friendship and hopefully love, Box 447225

THE REAL THING

Down-to-earth genuine person, 50, 5ft10, of not bad looks, caring, honest, and lots of love to give, seeks LTR, Box 884844

A LOVELY TIME

Keep-fit male, 55, white hair, slim, loves the arts, cooking, entertaining, theatre/opera/ballet, looks on beaches, seeking man to hug and spoil, Box 447471

See online for:

Success Stories

Read or write your own Success Story. Our members have been keen to write about their stories and how they met - who knows, their stories may help you in your search! We are always glad to hear from you.

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Online, say more about yourself and your perfect partner with our extended profile, add interesting photos to your profile, even change your ad's colour! It makes for a great dating advert that other people are bound to like!

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Due to expansion, Dateline Platinum, The UK's Largest Dating Group based on the outskirts of Maidstone is recruiting within its Telesales Department.

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Dateline Platinum is looking for highly motivated and driven people who would like to increase their earning potential. So come and prove your telesales skills, change people's lives and enjoy the benefits.

Email: carleyt@dateline121.com
Call Carley Talbot on: 01622 607707

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Full-time Sales Consultant.
Location: Maidstone / Paddock Wood Area.

Are you looking to start a new career or even embark on a career change, if so this could be your opportunity.

Your Move is a progressive, people focussed company dedicated to achieving the highest levels of customer service. We are looking for like minded candidates who are highly driven, self motivated, enthusiastic and ambitious. Experience within the industry is an advantage but not essential as full training will be given. The role is diverse and the successful candidate will have career prospects. A full driving licence is required.

Candidates wishing to apply should write or e-mail enclosing full CV with contact details to:
Oliver Blake - Area Director
Your Move, 93 Commercial Road
Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6DS
E-mail Oliver.blake2@your-move.co.uk

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DO YOU WANT TO MAKE SOMEONE'S DAY?

The Kent Registration Service is looking for Registrar/Celebrants. To find out more visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs

Kent County Council

Care home situated in Maidstone is looking for the following staff:-

COOK for the weekends, hours 7pm-3pm
KITCHEN ASSISTANTS to include weekends, hours 11pm-6pm
DOMESTIC needed Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 6 hours per day - flexible
HANDYPERSON, 25 hours per week

For more details and informal discussion please contact Belinda on 01622 737847.

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Would you like to join our concept creative team?

We are looking for creative thinkers who can develop copy and concept ideas through to on-screen design. Ideally you will be able to illustrate/scamp out a full brief and idea for potential advertisers and liaise with our other graphic designers or even turn it into a finished on-screen advert.

It will be an advantage to have a good background in copy writing, headlines and marketing skills as well as the ability to understand call-to-action and unique tagline messages. Knowledge of QuarkXPress, Photoshop, Illustrator or Indesign would also be an advantage.

All applicants should include an illustration/scamp of any advert from any local paper, illustrating how this advert could stand out or be portrayed in a way that talks more to its potential consumer than the original advert in the local paper.

We have been recognised nationally for award winning advertising campaigns for our clients, so if you want to be a part of our dynamic creative team in print or online, please send in your CV with a covering letter and your illustration/scamp advert idea to: Paul Stannard, Managing Director, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR or email paul.stannard@kosmedia.co.uk



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Please call 01622 664999 for more
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Required with experience in
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Covering payroll including statutory
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invoices and credit control. Knowledge
of the CIS systems relating to
sub-contractors would be preferred but
not essential. Reconciliation of bank
statements control nominal ledger up
to trial balance maintaining various
balance sheets and profit and loss
schedules plus adhoc assignments.

All CVs to Bob Casey at
Piper Windows
140 Newington Road, Rungate
Kent CT12 6PP

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COMMUNITY CARE WORKERS

We require part time or full time
for Ashford and the Marsh
Applicants must have their own vehicle
We offer flexible shifts, which include mornings,
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We provide full training, uniform, equipment,
CRB check and weekly pay at good rates.

Please call 01797 361889
E-mail countryfolkcare@hotmail.co.uk
Fax No. 01797 367493

Abbey Court School

"WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School, a 'special' school
and a 'special' place to work.

We are currently looking for a...

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPIST

to join and enhance our high calibre team.

Medway Scale, Grade B1 £22,664 - £29,628 (pro rata)

Are you committed, motivated and enthusiastic? Does 'Every Child Matter'
to you? Can you provide an exceptional Speech and Language therapy
service within an educational setting? Are you an effective team member
with a professional, flexible approach and a good sense of humour?

If so, you could be the 'SALT' that we are looking for.

Abbey Court is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Primary) and Strood (Secondary
and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 4-19 with severe
learning difficulties. Working hours are 37 hours p/w, term time only.
Candidates should hold a relevant Speech and Language Therapy
degree/qualification.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of
children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share
this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a
satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

For an application pack, please write to/telephone
(stating the role for which you are applying):
Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road,
Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP (01634 338224)

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

Closing date: 23.1.2009

RECEPTIONIST 20 HOURS

required for busy doctor's surgery to
cover 2 evenings and 3 mornings. Must
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Please apply in writing with CV to
Mrs Jill Blackman, Practice Manager, Sun Lane
Surgery, 5 Sun Lane, Hythe, Kent CT21 5JX

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Telephone : 01304 375212 Fax : 01304 380766

e-mail : admin@walmersciencecollege.co.uk

Headteacher : Simon Heaton BSc (Hons), NPOH

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Visitor Services and Events Supervisor

£17,465 (£14,161 pro-rata) and benefits
Bedgebury, Kent

Supervising the Visitor Services Team in providing a first class service to the public, you'll demonstrate clear leadership skills, displaying flexibility in sometimes demanding situations. You'll support the Visitor Services and Events Manager in providing an events programme that fulfils the business objectives at Bedgebury. Experience in the delivery of the highest level of customer care is essential and experience of working in the recreation and or tourism industry would be beneficial. Please quote ref: HR89/146.

Visitor Services Assistant/Handyperson

£15,243 (£12,359 pro-rata) and benefits
Bedgebury, Kent

You'll assist the Visitor Services team in providing a first class service to the public, which will include general repairs and maintenance. You'll also assist with a variety of work including health and safety inspections, routine maintenance, the delivery of events and a variety of other tasks essential to the efficient running of this popular visitor attraction. Experience of working with the public is also required. Hour split will be two days per week on Visitor Services work and two days per week on Handyperson work. Please quote ref: HR89/145.

For both posts, you'll be IT competent, and hours are 30 nett rostered over a seven day period working alternate weekends and some evenings

Benefits include a Civil Service Pension or stakeholder pension scheme, 25 days annual leave and flexible working options.

To apply visit our website at the address below or write to Shireen West, HR Services, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 7AT. Please note all applications must be accompanied by a Forestry Commission application form.

Please quote appropriate reference.
No recruitment agencies please.
Closing date: 19 January 2009.

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all age groups and sectors
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www.forestry.gov.uk/vacancies

Career Opportunities



Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer

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Section Manager Construction Craft

37 hrs per week, salary starting £33,858 per annum 08/12

Section Manager Dental Nursing, Social Care and Counselling

37 hrs per week, salary starting £33,858 per annum 06/11/10

Coordinator Mathematics

37 hrs per week, salary starting £27,209 per annum 08/6/1

Lecturer Media in Interactive Media

18.5 hrs per week salary range £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata per annum 04/6/4

Pre 16 Tutor

37 hrs per week salary range £18,387 - £26,363 per annum 07/12

Lecturer Computing and IT

37 hrs per week salary range £18,387 - £26,363 per annum. L24

Lecturer Public Services

2 x posts - 37 hrs per week salary range £18,387 - £26,363 per annum. 06/92 & 08/145

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Various hours available, salary range £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata per annum SI/HE/LS

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18.5 hours per week, salary starting £15,085 pro rata per annum 08/15/4

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or
call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)
quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- Pension & Life Assurance Scheme
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The closing date for the above posts is Monday 12 January 2009 at 12 noon



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MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Assistant Graphic Designer
Salary: £19,736 - £25,441
You will assist the College's graphic designer with all aspects relating to the production and development of the College's design requirements, including prospectuses, brochures, leaflets, advertisements and corporate documents. The successful candidate will have knowledge and experience of working in a graphic design related role and be able to demonstrate excellent creativity and design skills. A sound working knowledge of Mac OS X, QuarkXpress, Photoshop, Freehand MX and Microsoft Office is also required. Knowledge and experience of multi-media design and production would be advantageous.

Lecturer in Hair Design
(22.2 hours per week) Salary: £25,092 - £28,719 pro rata
We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic professional to teach, assess and participate in the development of Hair Design programmes. The successful candidate will develop and deliver high quality training and assessment procedures to full and part-time learners. The applicant must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and should hold or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Lecturer in Beauty
(18.5 hours per week) Salary: £25,092 - £28,719 pro rata
We are seeking to appoint a passionate individual to teach, assess and contribute to the development of Beauty Therapy programmes. The successful candidate will develop and deliver high quality training and assessment procedures to full and part-time learners. The applicant must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and should hold or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Floristry Technician
(37 hours per week Term Time – 38 weeks) Salary: £11,599 - £17,200 pro-rata
We have an exciting opportunity for a Floristry Technician who will be responsible for providing assistance and technical support to staff and learners within the Floristry department. In addition, you will prepare equipment for lessons and place and receive orders and ensure equipment is maintained. Ideally, you will have experience in the field of Floristry and be able to demonstrate good administrative skills. Candidates who submitted an application for this post in October 2008 need not re-apply.

Aim-Higher Co-ordinator
(Maternity Cover – 30 hours per week, term-time) Salary: £17,861 - £22,907 pro-rata
The successful candidate will arrange, develop and deliver activities which will increase aspiration and awareness of opportunities in Higher Education and progression routes amongst learners currently enrolled at MidKent College and to lead in the support offered to learners with their applications into HE through the UCAS process.

Closing date: Friday, 23 January 2009

Mid-Kent College is working in partnership with RBL Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBL, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBL on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbl.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and anyone applying for work with the College is expected to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunities employer

Kent County Council

Unqualified Tutors
Grade £15,113 - £23,903
37 hours per week
Attendance & Behaviour Service
Project 15, Thanet

This is an innovative alternative curriculum project for disengaged and disaffected KS4 students, involving an engaging and broad curriculum, a new slant on curriculum delivery.

Committed to high quality and genuinely imaginative education, Project 15 is looking for an additional Unqualified Tutor to join this well established, exciting venture.

Applicants for the post will have to provide evidence of effective working with disengaged KS4 students and have a proven commitment to teaching, learning and curriculum innovation.

For an informal discussion about the posts, please call Micheala Clay on 01843 231758.

Ref: CFE/o8/o652

Children, Families & Education, 3 year contract, Tonbridge ARC

The Adolescent Resource Centre (ARC) in Tonbridge is a well established and successful multi-agency provision for young people in the area. Education and Children's Social Services staff lead the project and work with staff from other children's services agencies to provide well rounded support.

Applicants for the post will be able to provide evidence of the ability to work effectively with disaffected young people in Alternative Curriculum education settings. They will also have a recognised teaching qualification or be willing to undertake one in the first year of employment and have a good understanding of the contribution that education can make to ECM outcomes.

For an informal discussion about the post phone Anne Lowry on 07934 508100.

Ref: CFE/o8/o650

Both posts are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

To apply visit www.kent.gov.uk, email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk, or telephone 08458 247 904 or minicom 08458 247 905 (charged at local rate). Please quote relevant reference number.

Closing date for both posts: 15 January 2009.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

The Insolvency Act 1986
EXTREME HOLIDAYS LIMITED
In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, notice is hereby given that we, Mark Newman and Vincent John Green, Licensed Insolvency Practitioners of Vantis Business Recovery Services, Judd House, 16 East Street, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 1HG were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above company by the Members and Creditors on 19 December 2008.

Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named company that is being voluntarily wound up, are required on or before 20 February 2009 to send in their full names, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any), to the undersigned, the Joint Liquidator of the said company, and if so required by notice in writing from the said Joint Liquidator are personally, or by their solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

Dated 19 December 2008
Mark Newman, Joint Liquidator

AUTO SYSTEMS INDUSTRIES LIMITED
(Company Number 3636481)
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Victory House, Quayside, Chatham Maritime, Kent, ME4 4QU, on 21 January 2009, at 11.00 am for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act.

Resolutions to be taken at the Meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the Meeting. Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of account at Victory House, Quayside, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4QU not later than 12.00 noon on the business day preceding the meeting.

For the purposes of voting, a secured creditor is required (unless he surrenders his security) to lodge a statement at Victory House, Quayside, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4QU before the meeting, giving particulars of his security, the date when it was given and the value at which it is assessed. Notice is further given that a list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at Victory House, Quayside, Chatham Maritime, Kent, ME4 4QU, between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above.

Dated: 13 December 2008
Clive Millgate, Director



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Innovative approach can earn £20,000



WINNERS: Darryl Watts and Steve Martin of Oil Drum, with Graham Whitehead of BT, and Tim Bentley, chairman of Kent Innovation Challenge

IT'S the Kent Innovation Challenge 2009 and a cracking £20,000 is being offered for the brightest business idea.

If you have a great idea, or if your business is developing an innovative product or service, then the Kent Innovation Challenge's cash prize could be yours for the taking.

The Innovation Challenge couldn't be easier to enter: a two-minute presentation to a panel of 'Dragons' could see you well on your way to the top prize. Paul Walsh, the Sittingbourne

Enterprise Hub director and co-ordinator of the competition's judging panel, said: "Since its conception six years ago, more than 200 entrepreneurs and businesses have entered the Kent Innovation Challenge. Now it's your turn to step up and accept the challenge."

Closing day for entries is February 20. Entrants will face the county's very own panel of Dragons in early March.

The £20,000 prize will be presented to the winner on April 2 during a gala dinner for the Business Link Kent 2020 awards at the County Showground. To enter, it is essential to pre-register. Registration forms and full com-

petition details can be found on the website www.kentinnovationchallenge.co.uk.

In addition to the £20,000 cash prize, the winners will also receive:

- Free rent for one year at the Sittingbourne Enterprise Hub at the Kent Science Park;
- Legal support from Vertex Law to the value of £5,000;
- Coaching from Skills for Business to the value of £6,000;
- Filming and production of a corporate video to the value of £5,000 from Lavender Blue Media;
- Two years' free membership of the CBI;

- PR advice to the value of £1,500 from Coast Communications.

Last year's winner was Canterbury-based Oil Drum. The prize was awarded for its innovative fuel efficiency technology – an on-demand hydrogen generator that works alongside a vehicle's engine and fuel.

The Kent Innovation Challenge is supported by KOS Media, Seeda, the Kent Enterprise Hub network, Kent County Council, Kent Science Park, Business Link Kent, Vertex Law, Skills for Business, the University of Greenwich, Coast Communications, Lavender Blue Media and the CBI.

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Awards will get New Year off to great start

THOSE wanting money for local projects should check this out: Action with Communities in Rural Kent, in partnership with the Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust, is inviting applications for funding from community groups.

At the latest awards panel – on December 15 – another two communities benefited from grants totalling £7,500.

Lydd community hall was awarded £2,500 to help complete the refitting of its kitchen; and Old Wives Lees village hall received £5,000 to convert storage space into an additional meeting room.

Ten communities in the eligible districts of Ashford, Canterbury, Dover, Thanet, Shepway and Swale have now received almost £30,000 for a range of projects.

Beginning with the next application round early in 2009, the amount available is increasing with grants of up to 75 per cent for projects costing up to £20,000. Trevor Skelton, the contact for new applications, said: "We are happy to receive requests for funding for any purpose that helps people to help themselves and are particularly keen to support new groups who may never have applied for funding previously."

"My advice and support in putting an application together is free and could get your New Year off to a great start."

Download guidelines and an application form under the grants information at www.ruralkent.org.uk or telephone Mr Skelton on 01303 813790 or email trevor.skelton@ruralkent.org.uk.



BUSINESS BRIEFS

Westwood's admirers vote with their feet

SHOPPERS have given Westwood Cross a vote of confidence in the latest survey by Business Blueprints.

Research reveals that 99 per cent of shoppers rate cleanliness at the retail centre as good or very good, 95 per cent feel the centre is safe and secure and 94 per cent value the pleasant atmosphere.

And despite worries about the economy, shoppers are spending eight per cent more this year on non-food items than last spring.

The centre is also attracting more shoppers from farther afield, in particular from Canterbury and Whitstable.

Of Thanet shoppers, 16 per cent said they also visited Bluewater, compared with 61 per cent last year.

Marketing manager Tracie Stevens said the centre was making an increasing contribution to the local economy.

Art meets commerce

A COLLABORATION between the arts and business has taken off at West Malling's Kings Hill business park.

It entails the launch of works by south east artists in the site's office buildings.

New works will be shown every three months, preceded by a private viewing when people from the wider business community will be able to see them.

Caroline Binns, of developer Liberty Property Trust UK, said: "The aim is to brighten people's working day by creating a welcoming and stimulating environment."

Liberty founded the Rouse Kent Public Art Award with KCC for the best piece of public art in the county. The biennial award will be held this year.

Channel trade seminar

NEWCRÉATIF, a virtual design and communication agency based in Folkestone and Canterbury, held another seminar on design and communication issues for firms trading in France.

The seminar, at the Ramada Hotel, Dover, was attended by more than 25 local government and businesses delegates from both sides of the Channel.

It is one of a series of events organised by Transmanche Technology over the last 18 months. All are aimed at improving trade between companies based in Kent and northern France.



CHEER UP: Despite the impact of the credit crunch Kent is well positioned to take advantage of the recovery and many county firms are still performing well

Our glass is half full

■ BY TONY PATEY

EVEN economic downturns have their silent majorities – more than half of companies in Kent say they are either unaffected by the current slowdown or are performing well and growing.

And a fifth are confident of a recovery in the coming months. This is proof that, while it's the public duty of the media to report what is going on, there is always another side of the coin that needs polishing.

The Financial and Business Services Survey 2008 commissioned by investment promotion agency Locate in Kent shows that almost a quarter of companies feel prospects are better for being based in Kent rather than elsewhere in the UK.

When asked how the economic climate was impacting on their business, encouragingly, almost a third – 29 per cent – reported that

they were still performing well and growing.

Just under half of respondents felt that their businesses had suffered as a result of economic downturn, and a further quarter responded that it had no impact.

Companies in the business services sector seemed to be faring better in this economic climate, with 36 per cent performing well, compared with 22 per cent in the financial sector.

The majority of respondents were realistic about the potential consequences of the global economic crisis, with 57 per cent concerned about their business over the next two years.

However, almost a third of respondents were confident their business would grow over the next few years.

One in five respondents felt confident about a recovery in the coming months.

When asked the biggest issue that compa-

nies would face once the economic outlook improved, respondents cited fears of cash flow problems and the cost of finance, lack of client and consumer confidence, red tape and legislation and the possibility of a slow recovery in the housing market.

Paul Wookey, chief executive of Locate in Kent, said: "These results are not surprising given that we cannot get away from the hard economic truths we are facing."

"However, there are some very encouraging results from this report. The fact that Kent's location and solid transport links were so positively rated gives us good reason to be optimistic about the future."

"The improved links to central London will serve the county well as it looks to leverage opportunities such as the 2012 Olympics."

"Access to international markets will become an essential lifeline for a number of companies, underlining the importance of transport links in terms of business location choice."

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Racer outlines three-year route to top



CHALLENGE: Caterham champion David Mayes is set to take on Formula Palmer Audi in 2009 after picking up award

SPORTS car racer David Mayes has been named in the top ten national drivers of 2008 after running away with the Caterham Superlight Challenge.

The 20-year-old, from Staplehurst, who only began racing Caterham cars in May, dominated the championship, winning ten out of a possible 12 races, earning him a place in the country's top ten.

He said "It's a great way to end the year, but I couldn't have done it without all the boys at Taylors Motorsport and my sponsors."

Next season Mayes will switch to single-seater racing by agree-

MOTORSPORT

ing to compete in the Formula Palmer Audi Championship.

An intensive testing programme is planned in the New Year ahead of the first race of the season at Donington Park in April.

The series is a breeding ground for motorsport's future stars with the likes of three-time World Touring Car champion Andy Priaulx and Indy Car racer Justin Wilson, just two of the names who have used Formula Palmer Audi as a springboard.

Mayes is looking forward to the challenge and already has his sights set on moving up the motorsport ladder and following world champion Lewis Hamilton into Formula One.

He said: "It's part a three-year plan. The winner of the series gets a £50,000 prize towards a drive in the F2 championship and the winner of that gets an F1 test with Williams."

Mayes will visit home circuit Brands Hatch on May 2 for round two of the championship, which will be one of the support races for the final round of the A1 Grand Prix series.

Bears aiming to make progress up league

BEARSTED will hope to maintain their charge up the Kent County League Premier Division as their campaign resumes this Saturday.

The Bears will take on relegation threatened Milton & Fulston United, who they recorded their last league victory against in November with a dramatic 4-3 win. Three points could see them move into fifth position in the league.

With just two wins so far this season, Snodland will hope 2009 will provide more points and move them into the top half. They will begin the year by hosting high-flying Lewisham Borough this Saturday.

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Villa boss Martin O'Neill says he would have been happy with FA Cup replay against Gills

Bulls blast way into next round of cup

AYLESFORD Bulls are through to the second round of the Kent Cup after thrashing London South East 4 side Whitstable.

The Bulls, who play in a league higher than Whitstable, were just too strong and easily won the tie 65-12.

The victory has set up a second round tie with National 3 South side Canterbury on January 17 at the Jack Williams Ground.

This Saturday Aylesford resume their London South East 3 tie challenge as they host Old Dunstonians, who are third from bottom.

The Bulls, in third place, have not lost a league game since November 1 and will hope to record their sixth consecutive victory at the weekend.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk



BELOW PAR: Maidstone United remain in the play-off positions despite a disappointing performance at Bourne Park, which joint boss Alan Walker (right) put down to poor teamwork



Photo: STEVE TERRELL

Walker demands better team ethic from Stones

NAIVE is the word joint manager Alan Walker described Maidstone United's below-par performance as after they were beaten by lowly Hastings United at Bourne Park.

Maidstone rarely threatened the Hastings goal and had to thank stand-in goalkeeper Steve Northwood for keeping the score line down as he pulled off a string of saves.

However, a second half strike from Antonio Gonella settled the game much to the disappointment of Walker.

He said: "I was equally disappointed with the performance as well as the result. We were very poor as a team and few players would have come out of that with any credit."

"As a team we have been naive and have not done what we aimed to do which was to get the ball out wide. I don't think there was a lack of effort but the longer the game went on, Hastings wanted the victory more than us."

Hastings came out of the blocks quickly and created three scoring opportunities in the first 15 minutes which Northwood, replacing Andy Walker who was injured in the warm-up, was equal to.

FOOTBALL

■ BY TOM HOWARD

Maidstone United 0

Hastings United 1

Gonella 74

Maidstone's first chance came shortly after when Elliot Bradbrook worked himself into space. The winger found Jay Saunders in the area, but his shot lacked accuracy.

Saunders' chance was as good as it got for Stones who let themselves down by some slack defending at times. On 36 minutes Ian Cox failed to clear the ball which allowed Hastings' Sam Adams to fire narrowly wide.

Two minutes before the break Hastings had a glorious chance to take the lead when Gonella broke through the offside trap. With the goalkeeper to beat he lifted the ball over Northwood but his effort had too much power and went over.

The second half followed the same pattern as

Maidstone starting XI



Subs: Thompson (Lacy 45), Peacock (Blackman 73)

the first with Hastings creating the lion's share of the chances. Northwood produced two excellent stops on the hour from Marc Whiteman but was unable to prevent Gonella's 74th minute strike from flying into the top corner.

In the final ten minutes Maidstone created a chance to equalise, but Bradbrook could only head Nathan Paul's cross into the hands of Hastings goalkeeper Greg Nessling.

Maidstone remain in the play-offs in fifth position.

• Maidstone United's festive period began with a 3-0 defeat at Dover on December 27. The scoreline flattered Dover as Maidstone dominated large parts of the game. However, a brace from Frannie Collins, including a first-half penalty, and a Shaun Welford strike settled the game.

Walker praises 'brilliant' squad

FOOTBALL

BY TOM HOWARD

JOINT manager Alan Walker has praised his Maidstone United squad for their recent performances after agreeing to a pay cut when the club was put up for sale.

Since the move by chairman Paul Bowden-Brown last month, only Meshach Nugent and Ian Selley have left the Stones. During that time, Maidstone have picked up two wins out of the five games since taking a pay cut.

Walker said: "It has all been done. The boys have been absolutely brilliant about it. A few people have had to leave to keep the club going. We wish those who have gone well in their future careers."

"We have done the pruning and the boys have all taken a pay cut and they deserve a bit of credit for their performances since then."

After more than 500 fans made the trip to cheer on the Stones in the 3-0 defeat at Dover Athletic during the festive period, chairman Paul Bowden-Brown is calling for the support to continue at Bourne Park.

The crowds at their temporary home this season have been down on last year, only exceeding 500 twice, with the visit of Dartford and the FA Cup fourth qualifying round tie against AFC Wimbledon. Bowden-Brown said: "I am still at a total loss how some so-called supporters of this fine club can line the pockets of other clubs within our league, so those clubs we visit can pay better wages to get, and keep, players due to our travelling away support."

"The failure of these supporters to attend home matches at Bourne Park could be the downfall of this club, and delay even further the Stones returning home."

"They may not like Bourne Park, but I am truthfully fed up with this excuse. Moving to Bourne Park was an integral part of our success on our rise through the pyramid to date."

"If this missing home contingent travel the miles the records show, they can surely travel the ten miles to Bourne Park and let their club benefit from the gate money."



RALLY: Paul Bowden-Brown is encouraging stay-away fans to support Maidstone at Bourne Park



EDGING CLOSER: Maidstone boss Nigel Maddaford feels the first win of the season is not far away

Maddaford still awaits elusive opening victory

RUGBY

GOING into 2009 still searching for league win marks a disappointing season for Maidstone, but manager Nigel Maddaford believes that elusive first victory is just around the corner.

Maidstone have lost all 12 games in London 2 South this season and started in the worst possible way by losing 84-10 to Dorking and 111-0 to Chobham.

However, despite losing players through injury and retirement, Maddaford feels 2009 will see a turnaround in the club's form.

He said: "It has been a difficult year. There have been lots of changes to the team, but I think the squad are a lot more settled now."

"We have lost players to injuries and others have moved away. I think that dented our confidence."

"We are closer to getting a few wins under our belt and should already have recorded a couple. In the last few games we have been close – and you do not get much closer than losing in injury time after conceding a try."

Even though a restructure of the leagues means Maidstone will avoid relegation if they finish in the bottom two, wins are imperative, says Maddaford.

"We do not have the worry of relegation, but we really need to start picking up wins," he said.

"This season was always going to be a building year after losing a few players. However, we have to put that behind us and start to focus on winning."

Maidstone will take on Sidcup on Saturday as the London 2 South league resumes after the Christmas break.

After coming close to winning their last two league games, against Basingstoke and Tunbridge Wells, Maddaford believes a win could be on the cards.

He added: "We have already played Sidcup once this season and they didn't beat us heavily. We have improved a lot since we played them, so a win is a real target for us."

LEAGUE TABLES

RYMAN PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Dover Athletic	24	21	0	3	+34	63
2 Staines Town	20	13	4	3	+19	43
3 Tonbridge Angels	24	12	6	6	+16	42
4 Carshalton Athletic	22	11	5	6	+3	38
5 Maidstone United	23	11	3	9	+3	36
6 Canvey Island	24	10	5	9	+5	35
7 Sutton United	21	10	5	6	+3	35
8 Dartford	23	10	3	10	0	33
9 Wealdstone	23	9	4	10	+7	31
10 AFC Hornchurch	21	9	4	8	-1	31
11 Ashford Town (Mx)	22	10	0	12	-3	30
12 Billericay Town	20	8	6	6	-4	30
13 Horsham	21	9	2	10	-4	29
14 Boreham Wood	22	8	5	9	-4	29
15 Tooting & Mitcham	23	9	2	12	-6	29
16 Hastings United	23	9	1	13	-9	28
17 Harlow Town	21	7	3	11	-4	24
18 Ramsgate	25	5	8	12	-14	23
19 Harrow Borough	22	5	8	9	-17	23
20 Hendon	23	6	4	13	-2	22
21 Margate	24	6	4	14	-14	22
22 Heybridge Swifts	21	3	8	10	-8	17

FIXTURES

Fixtures Saturday January 10, Ryman Premier League
Harlow Town v Maidstone United

Masters fights to retain coveted Tour card slot

GOLF

DANIELLE Masters will continue her battle to retain her Ladies European Tour card today (Wednesday) as she take part in the high-pressure Q School tournament in La Manga, Spain.

An injury-filled 2008 saw Masters miss the majority of the season and retire from the final event in Dubai, leaving her outside of the top 80 golfers who will renew their card for next season.

Retirement from Dubai means the Maidstone golfer will have to earn her place on the tour by coming through qualifying school in Spain.

Despite the challenge, Masters remains confident her back injury will not cause any problems.

Masters negotiated qualifying three years ago to win her card and is hoping the experience will stand her in good stead this time.

If she did miss out, it would mean a year on the sidelines before trying her luck at Q-School in 12 months' time, something she has been forced to contemplate.

She said: "I would be distraught if I



Picture: TRISTAN JONES

BATTLE: Danielle Masters' European Tour career remains in the balance as she competes for her card in La Manga

failed, but you move on. I'm really passionate about golf, but it's never been the be all and end all.

"If something happened which meant I couldn't carry on I would have to do something else."

"I wouldn't just give up. With all the injuries this year it would be nice to give myself another chance next year if I didn't make it this time."

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Wilmoths Folkestone
01303 245588
 Foord Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5AE
www.wilmothsfolkestone.citroen.co.uk

OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES: Urban cycle, Extra urban, Combined (Litres per 100km/mpg) & CO₂ Emissions (g/km);
Lowest: C1 1.0i 12V (68hp) 5.5/51.4, 4.1/68.9, 4.6/61.4, 108. Highest: Grand C4 Picasso 1.6i 16V THP (140hp) 4-speed Auto 11.8/23.9, 6.4/44.1, 8.4/33.6, 197.

*ON THE ROAD RECOMMENDED PRICES AND OFFERS APPLY TO QUALIFYING NEW CITROËN VEHICLES ORDERED 01.31.12/08 AND REGISTERED BY 31.01.09 (NEW C4 MODELS BUILT AFTER 01/08/08 ONLY) AND INCLUDE VAT, DELIVERY TO DEALER AND NUMBER PLATES, GOVERNMENT FIRST REGISTRATION FEE, AND 12 MONTHS' GRADUATED VEHICLE EXCISE DUTY (BLACK/METALLIC PAINT OPTIONAL AT EXTRA COST). PRICES SHOWN INCLUDE THE DEDUCTION OF THE APPROPRIATE MANUFACTURER'S CASHBACK OR DEALER CONTRIBUTION FROM THE MANUFACTURER'S ON THE ROAD RECOMMENDED RETAIL PRICES. **APPROPRIATE MANUFACTURER'S CASHBACK EQUIVALENT TO 15% VAT APPLIED ON THE NET MRP (EXCLUDING ANY FACTORY FITTED OPTIONS/ACCESSORIES). GRAND C4 PICASSO 1.6i 16V VTI 120HP LX £12,887 OTR WITH £1,804.00 DEDUCTED. MODELS SHOWN: C1 1.0i 68HP 3-DOOR RHYTHM £7,082.96, C3 1.4i 8V 75HP CACHET £9,198.66, NEW C4 1.6i 16V VTI 120HP EXCLUSIVE HATCHBACK £14,288 AND GRAND C4 PICASSO 2.0HDi EGS EXCLUSIVE £19,505.74 OTR WITH £2,808.51 DEDUCTED. ***0% APR OVER 3 YEARS AVAILABLE ON C3 RHYTHM (EXCLUDING STOP & START), ALL CACHET, EXCLUSIVE AND EXCLUSIVE PLUS MODELS, NEW C4 SX AND VTR MODELS AND OVER 4 YEARS ON NEW C4 VTR+, EXCLUSIVE AND VTS MODELS. 5.9% APR TYPICAL FINANCE ON C1 CODE AND RHYTHM MODELS. FINANCE SUBJECT TO STATUS. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM CITROËN FINANCIAL SERVICES, QUADRANT HOUSE, REDHILL, SURREY RH1 1QA, UK. OVER 185 ONLY: A GUARANTEE MAY BE REQUIRED. EXTRA URBAN CYCLE. 4.2 YEARS UNLIMITED MILEAGE WARRANTY. NO-FEE CUSTOMER OPTION OF 3RD YEAR DEALER PROVIDED EXTENDED WARRANTY, UP TO A 3 YEAR TOTAL OF 60,000 MILES. ONLY ON NEW CARS SOURCED FROM CITROËN UK LTD. OFFERS, PRICES AND SPECIFICATION CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS FROM PARTICIPATING DEALERS FOR PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS AND QUALIFYING BUSINESS USERS. TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY. PLEASE ASK US FOR DETAILS. COMPANIES WITH A CENTRALLY NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT WITH CITROËN UK LTD, NATIONAL FLEETS, MOTABILITY AND CONTRACT HIRE ARE EXCLUDED FROM THESE OFFERS. XSARA PICASSO VTX MODELS ARE EXCLUDED FROM ALL OFFERS SHOWN. C4, XSARA PICASSO AND C4 PICASSO/GRAND C4 PICASSO OFFERS ARE MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE. ALL MODELS SUBJECT TO STOCK AVAILABILITY. FINANCE OFFERS APPLY TO UK ONLY. AIRDREAM. THIS SIGNATURE REPRESENTS OUR COMMITMENT TO MAKE AFFORDABLE CARS WITH LESS THAN 120G/KM CO₂ EMISSIONS, WITH MANUFACTURING QUALITY ISO14001 AND 95% MATERIAL RECOVERABILITY. GRAND C4 PICASSO WINNER: WHAT CAR? - CAR OF THE YEAR "BEST MPV" 2007 AND 2008.